Eastern Turkey Mission
1900 - 1909
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S - Z

Seymour, Miss Harriet ~ 1-4

Stapleton, Rev. R. S. ~ 5-124

Stapleton, Mrs. Ida S. ~ 125-129

Thom, Dr. D. M. B. ~ 130-193

Thom, Mrs. Helen D. ~ 194-202

Underwood, Dr. H. L. ~ 203-260

Underwood, Mrs. H. L. ~ 261

Usher, Dr. Clarence D. ~ 262-324

Usher, Mrs. C. D. ~ 325-329

Ward, Dr. E. St. John, 330-351
Ward, Mr. Dr. E. D. 352-357
Wheeler, Miss Emily C. 358-383
Wheeler, Mrs. S. A. 384-408
Wilson, Miss Bertha, 409-421

Yarrow, Rev. Ernest A, 422-459
Yarrow, Mrs. Jane T, 460-465

Harpoot. Feb. 22nd. 1900.

Harriet Seymour

Dear Friends in Bitlis

The vote for an Annual Meeting was given a, day, in Harpoot, to sign, and I suppose I am the only one in our station, who voted that it is not expedient to have one. It may seem strange that a woman who is not supposed to understand the situation, as do her missionary brothers, should vote differently from them. And it may seem arrogant in me to think it well to explain why I have thus voted, but I know one vote may be the casting vote.

The question of having an Annual Meeting this year does not seem a light one to me. As I understand it, one of the chief reasons for having one is to consult with regard to the situation at Erzroom. I have felt a very deep sympathy for the young missionaries there, who are trying to carry out principles, which, I believe, every member of our mission endorses. In carrying out these principles, they, and whoever should attempt to do so, would meet with much opposition from the community, who have hitherto been unwilling to bear the greater part of the financial burden. But they have now assumed the whole amount of their Pastor's salary.

For many years we have been hearing that that church has been greatly under the domination of one man. From what I have heard of him, and, from the letters of his that I have seen, I have been astonished at the distorted views, he takes of the missionaries, (not merely in Erzroom,) and their motives, and policy, and of things in general. And though all things went well when his will was not thwarted, I could see how

bitter he would be when it is, and how wholly his influence would be exerted against these young missionaries. And that he would say things of them, and of their motives, which I have no doubt appear true to one with such a distorted vision, but which to a candid mind, could be easily explained.

I believe the young people have been actuated by the highest motives in trying to carry out the principles of missionary policy, which they believe to be the right ones, and I honor their steadfastness, knowing as they do, that they are thereby incurring the enmity of those whom they would fain bring up to a more manly and Christian standard.

And, it seems to me, that, as they are on the right track, notwithstanding they may have made, and may still make mistakes, (by which I believe they will profit,) it would be better to leave them undisturbed to carry out what seems right to them. And also that intervention should follow the request of the missionaries, and not of a people who have been so manifestly in the wrong.

And, feeling strongly as I have done, I could not do otherwise than to vote as I did.

It seems to me, that if, as a mission, we should carry this community in our prayers to Him, who has all hearts in His hands, and especially the man, who seems to form the sentiment in that community, we should see a continuation of the good change begun, which has practically their endorsement, by their assuming a burden which they have hitherto refused to carry.

Your missionary sister, Harriet Seymour.

Miss Hattie Seymour

Harpoot. Nov. 11th. 1901.

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Barton,

We are glad to believe that these letters will find you safely in your home at Newton, and with your dear children again at your side. And how heartily we all hope that the long journey has brought abundant and permanent strength to dear Mrs. Barton.

We have had frequent notices of your work and welfare from letters and newspapers. We hope the time is coming, when we, too, shall have a visit.

Last Saturday, we had the pleasure of

welcoming the Careys, who seem very bright and cheery after their long journey.

I went up to the White House today, where the Barnums are now living, and Mr. & Mrs. Carey were in the sitting room, studying Armenian together. Mr. Carey is greatly needed here, for the care of the school is too heavy a one to be borne alone by Dr. Barnum. Miss Emma is a very efficient helper of her father.

Since I began this letter, Dr. Thom has arrived. Winifred Knapp, the oldest daughter, and about nine years old, has been ill two weeks with typhoid fever, and though we have not Dr. Thom's report, Dr. Michael says the crisis is not past, and the fever will probably run another week. We are

all sympathizing with the anxious father and mother.

Mr. Browne and Caro wished very much to go to Semran and Geghi, but the road has been very unsafe for three years, the Kamedich constantly robbing travelers, and committing outrages in the villages. Our travelers have visited Chemisgezek, Aghun, and the near villages, Egin; and today I had a letter from Caro from Shepik, from whence they will go to Arabkir.

When we first heard of Miss Stone's seizure, and of the great sum demanded for ransom, I said to Dr. Barnum, "If I were in her place, I should not wish any ransom to be paid for me; it would destroy all missionary work in

Turkey". Dr. Barnum said, "I feel just so.
But now how grateful we are that outsiders
have taken up the case, and that there is
hope that she will be released. Then I th
that there is no doubt but that our valia
new President will not rest till the brigan
receive such a punishment, that it wo
deter others from repeating such outrages
I must confess to a great relief when the le
have come to us from our travelers on this j
The Koords have not yet learned this way of
extorting money, but they would be apt scho
Do not think of answering this letter, I kno
letters and work have accumulated in you
absence, and we are always glad to hear
you in general letters.
With love and kindest wishes for you both,
for Howard and Maude, I am sincerely, Aunt Ha

Miss Hattie Seymour

MAR 24 1902
MAR 28 1902

Harpoot. Feb. 24th. 1902.

Dear Dr. Barton,

You know at the time of the event, your books were saved, being in Dr. Gates' house. As Caro and I had not a book then, we selected quite a number of yours, that we would like to buy, and I wrote the names on a piece of yellow paper, which I now enclose. Dr. Gates wrote against the name of each book, its probable price. The whole amounted to $35.75. I wrote to you, and we were expecting to pay you, but you wrote, "Let the money remain till you get the Indemnity." And I think you added, "Let the remainder be put into the College Library".

We know that we are to have the Indemnity, but Miss Annie Bush's books, or a part of them, have been sent to Caro, and there are more of here, than we can get into our good sized book-case. It seems rather

mean, after the books have been in our hand
not to keep them
long, but should be take them, we have no p
to put them. We would like to keep t
International Revision Commentary, 5 vol. against
Dr. Gates wrote $2.00 but I think they are worth m
and will send $4.00. We would like Ben Hur .75
and Alden's Home Atlas of the World, which I thoug
would be $2.00. The whole amounts to $6.75.
Please write me what shall be done with the
remainder of your books. Dr. Gates took some, b
said he settled with you at once.
We are all rejoicing over the successful operation upon
Platt, by Dr. Shepard. It was a kind Providence
brought him to Diarbekir for the winter. Miss Plat
a rarely beautiful character. We hope most hea
that Mr Barton will continue to improve. Please gi
to her. Caro & Mr Browne are at Hoseli. Sincerely yours
H. Peymou

Harriet Seymour

REC'D AUG 29 1904

Brooklyn. Aug. 26th. 1904.

My Dear Dr. and Mrs. Barton,

What a pleasant surprise it was, to have one of my fellow passengers tell me when the steamer stopped, that a letter was awaiting me. How eagerly I read your kind words.

You thought Mr. Browne might meet me. But though he did not appear. Caro and two of my nieces, and Dr. Gregaria's son, were at the pier. It seemed like a bit of Harpoot

to see Caro's face again. Dr. Greegan's son managed matters at the Custom House, and we had not much delay.

Caro had been at my sister's temporary home in Brooklyn, and returned with me - she leaves us tonight for Taunton. You can imagine our tongues run very fast, I am most grateful that we could have this little visit together. My sister, whose home is in Lansdowne, expects to go with me next Wednesday to Philadelphia.

I had a very pleasant journey on the ocean. The weather was usually fine, the boat a good one, and Rev Mr. Peet had kindly secured a stateroom in the middle of the steamer, I was not sea-sick in the least, though passengers at both ends of the boat were so. Indeed, in my long sea journey from Samoan to New York, I was only seasick for a few moments on the Black Sea. I did not lose one meal, my health seems perfectly restored.

I hope Mrs. Barton and Howa
and Maude are well. Please giv
them a loving greeting from me.

Of course I am filled with
astonishment and amazement
as I pass through this great
city. We have been riding to N
York today, and have seen Mad
Square, and the Flatiron Buildi
and have looked into the Subway!
I feel like the Queen of Saba,
with more reason than she. And ye
Harpoot has its attractions for me
My sister, Mrs. Armstrong, wishes me to th
you for your kindness in sending her wor
your old friend, and co-worker, Harriet L

R. S. Stapleton

JAN 29 1900
FEB 1 1900

Erzroom Jan 4th 1900.

Dear Dr Barton:- Our New Years day was gladden by the telegram from Van stating that the friends had reached there safely. Surely a second Thanksgiving day it must have been for Dr Raynolds. As yet no details of the journey have come to us and without doubt you will get them as soon or by the same post. The first of the year was a full day for us when over a hundred callers came to wish us a good year, and now we are fairly launched in it altho' it seems strange so soon to have the vacation. The schools closed to day for a vacation of two weeks. The examinations show that good work has been done this term but yet there is a goal ahead not yet attained. There was no public exhibition at this time but two or three special examinations in work that was finished. We were glad to receive the list of appropriations of the W. B. M. and the cry goes up again why can not Erzroom be under that Board as all the rest of the Mission is. It would seems as tho' this place were on the black

list as far as the W. B. M. I. is concerned. We may make another attempt to have this desired transfer accomplished.

I have tried some what to get in touch with the Russian part of our field but it is very hard work thro' correspondence At the beginning of the last year it was in a state of some confusion and some of the church members had to be roundly scored by my predecessor. I am now awaiting a report from the Evangelist of that region of his fall touring. But there as here our aim will be to make the churches assume more and more of the financial responsibility.

There is a great deal of suffering and want in this city which is opening many doors for the bible reader who is beginning her work thus. We are trying to get three consecrated women to give part of their time to work in different parts of the city as we have failed to secure one who can give her entire time. In many ways if successful this will be better than having one.

As yet no reply has come to my communication to the Erzroom

church to assume self support, yet I think it will come. The pastor is working away on the tithe question and the number slowly increases. This community would easily take care of the entire work were the members united in this purpose & gave as the Lord prospers them. But so long have they been receiving that it comes almost second nature to beg. It has just come to my attention that two of our workers who have between them nearly seven hundred dollars worth of wheat and yet each of them have begged again & again for themselves. I for one shall be glad when the relief is a thing of the past and it is fast becoming so, for the English friends have other causes to which to give their money.

The young lady who came from England to aid in the orphan work takes up the work in good earnest, Miss Bond by name. At one time she was an inmate of one of our schools in India where she was born. Speaking of the coming of these ladies & their detention, surely it is about time that our Government should see that

when once passed Cple. there ought to be no question in land. I am enclosing a letter to Mr. Swett in regard to having our port of entry changed from Cple. to Trebizond. So much time is consumed in Cple because the agent there has so many boxes to look over. Our boxes shipped in September have not yet arrived. I know there was a question about some salt in one caused tho' our not knowing that the importation of salt was prohibited, but every time four to six weeks might be saved. It would save the repacking twice, the breakage that so often occurs. I know our Custom House A/c will have to be transferred to Trebizond. Another point and that is it seems to us they are more careful at Trebizond and it is easy to have boxes pass the custom, i.e, if any question came up, the consul can accomplish it better there than in Cple. Minister Strauss left us a parting injunction, ere he left, to be good & not to make too much of a noise while he was away. Wishing you a Happy New Year (tho' rather late) & wish greetings to you & Mr. Barton I remain

Fraternally Yours Robert S. Stapleton

MAR 5 1900 6
MAR 7 1900

Erzroom Feb. 3rd 1900

Dear Dr Barton:-

Your good letter of January 9th came to us this week, for which we give thanks, for it is no small encouragement to hear such words. It is a source of pleasure that we can report progress here.

You will be rejoiced to hear that the church here in Erzroom has assumed self support. This result has come about from the plea I made to them on the state of our appropriations. They are well able to do it and more beside, which in time I shall present to them, for I believe they ought to have a large part in the support of this field, if not that already begun, then some new work which they might open themselves. Then perhaps the one man who is at outs with us might have the opportunity to act the bishop. I sincerely appreciate your advice in regard to him; but dear Dr Barton this policy "of doing every thing to conciliate him" has been carried on too far with this man; for even Mr Chambers had to be doing this constantly. May we not try our plan with him and let

him alone for some time and then he will see that our aim is not to pull down but to build up the work. By letting him alone, I do not mean to be unfriendly nor unchristian, but to hold to the policy we have started here, for I firmly believe that nothing else but a return to the old methods would satisfy him; and the first time we cross his path again, this same state of affairs would be confronting us. I have had another experience with him this last month which confirms our opinion, that the one trouble is, that he has opposed us because he is not making as much money out of the station as he formerly did. Not that he took the Mission's money but he has not the handling of it which was a source of making money. The other week a draft on Brown Shipley & Co was sent me for a man in our field. Formerly such were turned over to him and "trying to conciliate him", I sold him the draft and he suggested forwarding it for me (that is the son whom he sent for it.) This was a scheme to try and hold some of the money as the man

was in debt to another man here in the city. At first, I did not know this until he refused to honor an order I made on him to honor a draft on me, which the payee had made out on me having heard that the money had come to me for him. But he gave the money to me having deducted 1% on an English draft which was always an accommodation to him (thus he formerly made his money). But the above affair was involving another man from church and so I reserved the right of forwarding the money, but promised him I would wait till I heard from the man. A second time and a third time ~~the~~ a draft on me came from the man with receipts from the three persons to whom the money was sent. Now because I did not keep the five liras he asked for, the disgruntled man is off again. This is the last time I shall ever have dealings with him in money matters.

I go to this extent to show the man who tried to force me by appealling to our consul to make me do it. What conciliating can I

do with such a man. That he has his good points I admit but these other points are too prominent just now.

I wish that it were possible to get in closer touch with the Russian part of our field. Sometimes the question of transferring it to the hands of workers, who are constantly passing thro' there such as the Presbyterian Board who have workers in Urumiah and constantly passing thro' Russia has come to us. But some would say we would lose the only self supporting church of our field. But have we a right to claim it when it is not the result of our labor. When Mr Chambers left here the state of the churches there was such as only a long visit could settle. There is Br Zorab Tarkisian the evangelist over whom we have little hold as we cannot visit him nor his work, and the trouble among the churches spoken of above was about this man. And some things, that appear under the surface, would lead me to think that he has more than this work in hand, which is to his own worldly profit. I have thought of sending a native

through this field the coming summer and reporting to us. Only a lay man could do this and I am looking for such. What do you think about this plan? If the Annual meeting does not take us away this summer we may spend it in one of our fields say the Passen field.

The ladies are sending a communication to the Woman's Board of the Interior regarding the condition of the school building. It came up at a station meeting this past week when a vote with this sense was passed. That the station strongly urge that the Girl school be closed after this year (June) unless some hope of a new building in the near future be given. This sounds almost like an ultimatum and perhaps the vote sounds stronger than this but the fact is that the condition of the building is unsafe as to health and life. Miss Lord has just risen from her third attack of pleurisy in the fifteen months she has been here while Miss Bushnell has had pneumonia and grip all of which resulted from the cold school house which cannot be heated because of its condition.

These buildings were purchased some sixty years ago and were then old houses. I do not think there is another place in Turkey where they have such buildings and it is too bad to handicap the work in this way for the schools are improving under the care of Misses Lord & Bushnell.

Now a question will arise if the money is raised in regard to the lower house property which belongs to the American Board but is used by the school. I do not suppose that this can be torn down and the site used for a new school without permission tho' you. In 1898 a resolution was passed at our annual meeting by which permission was sought to use this for Girl school purposes. Can this resolution be construed to mean the pulling down of the building and the use of the site for the new? I am in favor of it but the Prudential Committee might desire some thing further. Please advise me upon this subject. Greetings to yourself and Mr. Barton. We were pleased to receive your greetings thro' Miss Bushnell.

Most fraternally Yours Robert S. Stapleton

Erzroom Feb 9th 1900.

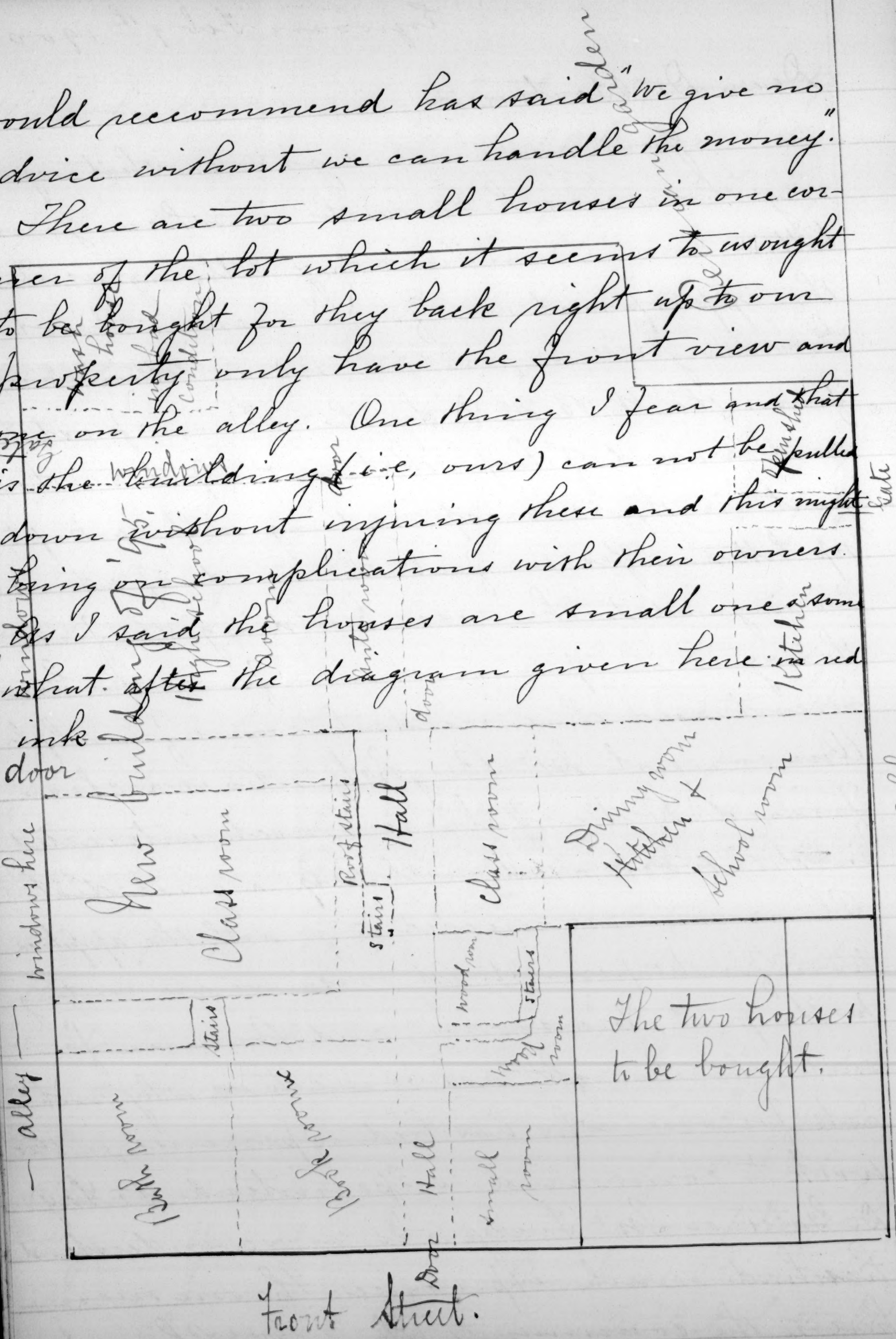
MAR 5 1900
MAR 7 1900

Dear Dr. Barton:-

You can imagine what rejoicing there was here with us when your letter came on Tuesday telling us about the appropriation for a new school building. A similar news letter came from the W. B. M. I. by the same post and a word of hope that in the future their part in the corresponding will be kept up better. Yes we feel the need of advice in regard to the new building. The first thing is the permission from the Government and this needs to come from Cple. Our consul Mr Bergholtz who is a close friend of the Vali is much interested in the work and will help a great deal. Plans now are needed to go with the application for the permit. At once we are writing to Harpoot, Marsovan and America for such. The thought has come to us why not ask for one who has had experience in this work to come and superintend it? Say Dr Gates or Mr Tracy who as we understand have had much experience. The one man here of the community whom Mr Chambers

would recommend has said "We give no advice without we can handle the money."

There are two small houses in one corner of the lot which it seems to us ought to be bought for they back right up to our property only have the front view and are on the alley. One thing I fear and that is the building (i.e, ours) can not be pulled down without injuring these and this might bring us complications with their owners. As I said the houses are small one and somewhat after the diagram given here in red ink



It is said that the two could be bought for about two hundred liras and this would give the entire lot from alley to alley. I feel sure all would say buy the houses as Mr Brown and others have done. Does permission come from the Prudential committee for this purchase? I have been trying to buy a house opposite us for the orphanage girls and find it hard to bargain with some people. Now comes an offer of keeping some fifty more children and I am going to put in a strong plea for the Hasdoor unfortunates who are beginning to come into the city.

The church in Erzroom is undergoing a thorough examination at the hands of its pastor. I also hope he may remain here for he is a worker and may in time become able to set the tide in the right direction. Just now we are uniting in Sunday school work and may shortly begin a C. E. society for the boys. There is a Y. M. C. A. or so called but the question is how to teach them to work for

the church; for when that is accomplish
ed a great deal of the trouble which has
existed here will vanish. We do earnest-
ly pray for devine guidance in this
line. The society of C.E. among the girls
will revolutionize them in the line of work.
We hope to have the first church social
since I have been here with the aid of
a magic lantern. To night, I am to prac
tic it on the children, and if it works the
larger children are to enjoy it also.
We have had some little insolence on
the streets from the soldiers who have a-
noyed the ladies. At once the Vali was
presented with a protest and he promises
it will not occur again. I think he will
do his best to keep his word.
Our school attendance has some what
increased this term and I think better
work is being done. Greetings to
you & Mrs Barton from our circle.

Fraternally Yours
Robert S. Stapleton

Might we have a Board Almanac?

MAR 31 1900
APR 11 1900

Erzroom March 3rd. 1900.

Dear Dr. Barton

We were pleased to receive your letter a week ago, also for the enclosed, forit gives us the assurance that you understand the case more fully when you get the facts from both sides. Perhaps enough has been said upon the subject, but a fact occurred this week which shows this man in the true light. This time it is the pastor who has gained the displeasure of the man and it was over a trivial thing but grew to high words. Let me assure you, we are endeavoring to co-operate with the church people, not with any particular man as the above, who does not represent the church as he would like to. I do not mean to say that we are satisfying all demands, nor perhaps going as quickly as some would wish . We have to feel our way and go slowly, even to the extent of tiring our selves with the things which we would like to see change. During this year, I have been following the school work closely and now feel that we could do with a change in methods used in the school; and if the present staff cannot work them then a new staff will have to be tried. I felt this a year ago, but did not wish to turn the world quite upside down, and so have waited. It seems to us that ere our school can be made efficient, so as to provide us with the needed workers for our field, we must have an American teacher workigg in it and if possible, that is my wish for the coming year. In regard to the transference of our woman's work from the one Board to the other it ,i.e. the desire for it, grew out of the seeming neglect of the one Board to our or their worker here and

letters sent to them . But since that letter left here, they have promised to do better in the future. We are now busy, ~~on~~ drawigg the plans for the new school which we will send round for correction and suggestions. I know Erzroom has a hard name for expensive buildings, but the cause of it we do not see. Perhaps after this new one is erected we may be able to give more light upon the subject.. The ladies feel the need of a Kindergarten teacher very much indeed and it seems impossible to get one from among the people inthis land to come here. Trebizond secured one this last Fall but had to offer her more than even our men teachers here get. Did we suceed in that way, a nice state of affairs we would have among the rest. As it is they are all asking for higher salaries which they will not get, for we have not the money to give. The ladies are thinking of asking for an American lady to come and take up that work. Here is a good opening for such work just now and it is a part of school work which pays the best . I know of one or more in that line of work who might be influenced to take such a posistion and I am on the point of writing and asking, if the place opens, if they would like to come. If the place opens for them or for one I feel certain that every thing in regard to health, character, creed, and ability would be acceptable. I am glad to see that my friend Mr.. Stutson is at work in El Paso Texas. We are in fairly good health and hope you are the same. Greetings to you and Mrs Barton from our entire circle. Our English friend is quite a helper in the orp

phan, but with her High church views and her love of the national spirit would if given full sway make us trouble.. But we do not anticipate any such thing from her at all for we shall try to keep her with bounds and if it goes too far with plain words tell her so.

Fraternally yours

Robert S. Stapleton

Wednesday this week, telegram -Cronje capitulated..

Friday by same source- Ladysmith relieved. Great rejoicing..

ERZROOM

217305

Feb. 10, 1900.

I SEND you herewith an appeal for orphans who will soon be thronging our doors from Hasdoor. If anything can be done for these, let us know. Miss Bond, who is in charge of the orphanage here, desires, if the funds can be secured, to increase the number in the orphanage, and certainly the destitute condition of these Hasdoor orphans is pitiable.

The village was practically stripped of everything, even the house doors being carried off. The occasion was somewhat of this fashion. Eighty men from Russia (presumably Armenian agitators,) came over to the village and there demanded money. Soldiers, hearing of their presence, came to their lodging, accompanied by the headman of the village, who came with the hope of preventing trouble. The eighty, thinking that he had betrayed them, shot him and his sons and escaped with the loss of some six or eight lives. Two days later the Governor of the district, with soldiers and armed Kurds, came upon the village, and slaughtered and plundered indiscriminately, maltreating the bodies of their victims. Horrible are the stories told, and I hardly think it would pay to repeat them.

* * *

ERZROOM, TURKEY.

Last November 160 men, women, and children, met their deaths at the hands of soldiers and Kurds. Twenty of these were children, twelve were women, the rest men. These are Armenians, and many of the men left wives and families. For the children of these (of whom there are over a hundred—even if we take one for each killed, while many had four and five apiece,) I come to beg.

While I write there is one woman in the room, who is the widow of one of our former workers in that village. She has two boys and one girl. Kegham Melkonian, who is now in this city, is a boy of thirteen years. Haigazun, a boy of seven, while his sister Aschalous is nine years. Besides losing her husband, two sons and a son-in-law were killed. One of the sons being married leaves two girls, Yester, five years old, and Yerpraxia, two-and-a-half years old. Her son-in-law had three children—two girls and a boy: Satenig, eight years old, Haganoush, just born, while Levon is a boy of three. I think this may be a typical family, who were in good circumstances; but everything was taken, so that when friends of ours passed through the village they had not a carpet to sit on, nor a vessel to cook in, nor with which to bring water. Furthermore they have little or no clothing whatever, and it is a mere existence they are having this cold winter weather.

In another house, where Baron Pro was killed, there are twelve orphans—seven boys and five girls. Eight persons were killed here, one being a woman.

Porter Asvadoor, with three others of another house, were killed, leaving three boys and four girls.

Bedros Kooloo's house had two killed, and four orphans remain—two boys and two girls.

Shepherd Monoog left four children—two boys and two girls. This was a poor and humble home.

Heroo was an old man, and left two boys and two girls and a grandson.

Babe Snare left a large family of seven girls and one boy.

Kevork Snare leaves a blind daughter and two sons.

Kevork Sahagian is represented by four boys.

Zoroo had two boys and two girls to be cared for.

Parsegh Hovhanessian has four to add to the number—two girls and two boys.

Kocha Vartanian's family consists of three boys and one girl.

Kaspar's death leaves two girls and two boys.

Most of these are farmers' children.

These are the nearest neighbours to the woman above mentioned, who is here, but she could give no further details about them. But I send these, hoping, if possible, that something may be done for these hundred or more homeless destitute waifs.

It is impossible just now to get more details, but I promise to do so as soon as possible. Miss Bond, who is giving her time to the orphans, desires to help these, and is willing to redouble her efforts if they be brought here. It has taken about seven liras for an orphan this past year, but an extra number, I think, would lessen it *per capita* and be a means of aiding; as we could make other industries pay, such as weaving, carpenters' work, &c. We have about a hundred and ten boys and girls now.

We promise to keep to conditions if means are provided for these; such conditions as age, state, etc. There are others in the city here. One boy who has neither father nor mother, whose history I hope to get ere the post goes to-day. But I wish to bring the pitiful condition of the Hasdoor orphans forward, for just now it seems to us that they are the most needy.

Here are the histories of one or two now in the city. Mardiros Asorian was a babe in arms when his father Khazar and uncle met their death in the market. His sister is in the Broosa Orphanage, while his mother ekes out an existence for herself and the grandmother with sewing and washing. The father was a tailor.

Sarkis Kersargian, a boy of eight years, is without friends or relatives, his grandmother having died since the massacre. His father was a carpenter, and lost his life by the sword. These two cases are sad, and the children are in a destitute condition. I took a kodak picture of Mardiros and his mother, which I will forward on Tuesday.

Another one, Arevalous Serekian, a girl of ten years. Her father was a well-to-do shop merchant here in Erzroom, but when the event occurred he was beaten to death with clubs, together with his brother. All their property was taken from them, and they have just been keeping body and soul together.

The mother is a superior woman, and Arevalous is a pretty, refined little girl, and has won good opinions from everyone. She has just come to us this week, but her support is not guaranteed as yet.

Erzroom Orphanage
Erzroom, Feb. 10,
1900

MAY 25 1900

Erzroom March 29th. 1900.

Dear Dr. Barton :-

First off all we have to report that our pastor here inErzroom has resigned and that he expects to leave in August when his two years are ended. This is on account of his wife's health which has been very poor indeed and is even now so that almost every day she has a fever and the result is she is becoming weaker so that he feels that they must have a change. This is too bad for the work and when we think that the station met his travelling expenses to this placewhich amounted to twenty liras it seems too bad as far as we are concerned.This was done the first year I came and to a certain extent with my consent for it was not for me to object. Yet it seems to me now that we did wrong for the church were well able to pay the bill them selves. The parsonage during the absence has been rented and only one man seems to know where the money is which it seems to me might have gone toward this bill. It is past now as is all such aid while I am here.

Another question that has come to my attention is the question of taxes that we pay for the buildings. Or rather the payment of the taxes. When I took up the work the community collector came for the taxes and I saw that what he asked was a tenth more than the amount written by the Government. I asked him how it was and found there were other items which were not usually written but I asked to have them written qand found amongn the items ten per cent for collecting. This did not seem right to me but I was told it was the custom and referring to the books of former years I found it was so, but I made up my mind it should be the last time that we

pay any such thing. This year I am paying directly to the Government thro' our consulate. I do not know what the custom in the Mission is, regarding this matter but if this is the out-come of co-operation then there is some thing wrong. For it seems we have been paying an eleventh too much in years gone by. Last year the taxes here were over 22.00 liras while this year they will be less than twenty unless the rumored increased rate of taxes be a fact and affect us also. All our work this past year seems to have been along the money line and not altogether a pleasant one.

We are having plans drawn for the new school building by some one here who is helping us not a little. This person is the interpreter to our consul and is a genius in many ways. You warn us about the expenses in building. I do not know that we are altogether to blame for the high prices of things here, altho' by beginning to buy the material now and lay it by, we may take our time about it and get them at a reasonable figure. So we shall begin to buy the stone in the rough and beams of timber when opportunity offers. It will be none too soon when the building is finished. Only this week, a part of the roof over the room used ~~fell~~ as a kitchen fell in and I shoud not be surprised if the roof in other parts would follow suit. It is too risky to attempt to fix the roof for fear that we merely hasten the down-fall of the whole rather than im-

~~im~~

improve it at all.

It has been suggested to us that we get our windows and doors from America which might seem reasonable enough . What would be your idea upon the subject? Do others do such and if so, what firms do they generally patronize? Could you give us the names of firms who handle school furnishings? We will be sending the plans home soon for approval and suggestions.

In referring to the tax question again I have an idea that the collector, who is the government agent for the community, gets a part of his salary in this way. Then the question would arise whether or no in stead of the community helping to pay the taxes on these buildings which are for their benefit, they ask us to give a ten percent toward the salary of one of their officers who is of no use to us as we get our work thro' our consul. If you would advise this, why, we will do it. But this question comes in here, and that is by so doing we ally our selves with the community in the eyes of the Government in a way that might be unpleasant some time. I am not advocating separating our selves from them, but the way in which we shall be joined with them is the question. I think very few think other than that we are here for the good of the people.

There is a great deal of distress among the village people here. It does not affect our community but gives an insight to the trend of affairs. Many of these villages, because of the oppression of the

taxes, have sought to change from the Armenian church to that of Russia and it is said that if this does not succeed they will all become Moslem.
I understand they received little encouragement from the first quarter and so the second step may be taken. I am hoping to do some visiting this Spring. The work in the Kemah reigon is not at all in their best condition. The pastor, living at one place, has been unable to go to the othervillage and the people of the latter place do not feel well about it until I fear they come to words over the question.

It is a sad thing when such is the affair, but I have found that by letter one can not get the entire facts. This pastor, when he was in here this last Summer, at first, said that they had not paid him for some time, but when I suggested that if they were not paid him, perhaps it would be well for him to be transferred to another field, he met this, by saying that they had paid but they were usually late with it. Now he writes again it is some years since they have paid him. When he was here(coming at our expense to see the doctor and to take the sulphur baths) he had many things for which he was begging. Among these, was ~~for~~ a horse and its keep so, that he might visit the second village some two hours away. This we felt we could not do, for while others had not the same, it would lead to their asking for the same for they have a similar distance to travel over. He also asked for a sewing machine which had partially been promised by Mr. Chambers, according to his account(?) the real thing being that he said he would try to get one if he could from some of his friends. Then the question of some cloth-a similar promise- came up. I had some Monisar which I offered to him much to his embarrassment and we had to draw our owneonclusio His two daughters are kept in school and so we thought that with the others things that was all that could be expected of us just now. The work at Erzingan is not without its trials for the seed of the Plymouth Brethren is still to be seen or rather the fruit you would say as it is the result of their work.
We are all well here. This next week Dr. Ussher is expected here when I hope to have an associate so that they will not say I am the only man there is. Even if he will not be large at first he will help me out in this respect.
Our English helper is rather unfortunate in having the tendency ~~of~~ to faint which this high altitude only increases.. Fasting thro' the season of Lent does not help her either and so the doctor has forbidden it and also prescribed more rest for her and so we hope the better.
All unite in greetings to you and Mrs Barton from our entire circle

Fraternally yours
Robert S. Stapleton

Erzingan Mch 29/1920

APR 30 1900 10
MAY 25 1900

Erzroom Turkey April 6th.. 1900.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Your favors of March the 9th. and 16th. respectively are at hand to-day, and I am sorry that instead of the second page of my letter I received the second page of a Mr. Wrights letter. I am glad that there will be mo trouble about the site for the girls' school, as the Prudential committee has given its consent. As you say there will be no use for the ground for any other purpose for some time to come.

In regard to the two houses on the same lot we do not see how we can get along with out buying them for their sites. In the first place it seems to me that our houses can not be torn down without injury to these if we do not have them and that might bring us in to a law suit with heavy expense and that we shall avoid if possible. Then if the building is to be for the growth of the work then this space is necessary for the new building. Then, the lot at its full is only 100 / 105 feet. But these two houses will indeed eat up the first amount appropriated. We hardly understand what is meant by beginning the building with what we have in hand and the ladies have written Chicago what will be needed for the building, and the amount is about $10,000. By the next post, we hope to send the plans as they have been drawn so far.

As I reported last week our pastor has resigned from the church here, the resignation to take effect in August when the two years are up. But such does not please the church and he is told that if he is bound to leave, he can go at the end of this month and that at Easter he can get out of the parsonage, so that they can rent it and so make a little money. I have refrained from saying any thing about his going for it seems to us that he a very good reason for seeking a different climate, because of the health of his family. Some what like Miss Chambers now at Oorfa his wife finds little relief in this place. But I shall call the attention to their unchristian actions and at the same time self-injuring actions. For no pastor will care to come here when he knows that such treatment may be his portion. Then again at some time, they may need the help of the Station ~~at some time~~ and that at that time such an attitude as they now have might affect them then. They are acting like a lot of little children and the Head of the comm unity is as one of them in this matter. Now the poor pastor is the scape-goat for all their mean attitude toward us for the last two, years.

If the church continues in their purpose the pastor will be with out work for some four months, as the church at Trebizond will not be ready for him till September. In the mean time, we shall make room for him some where in our house and I will try and give him some work to do in which he will be a great help to me..

In regard to the Russian field, here is a question with me. The Evangelist there Bar. Zorab is getting some Lt.36 a year and we

have had no real report of his work since I have been here. Last year's report for the Mission and Boston was made with out them. Can we go on paying this man his salary in this way and know no more about the work than this? I have written letters in English and had letters written in Armenian to him but since last July no word has come from him, except a draft which he drew on me. And because he did not notify me in time, he received a second amount of money, as I bought a draft here and sent, thus giving him some forty more liras than he ought to have had. It occurred this way . It was time to send him a little money and I was looking for a Russian ~~draf~~ draft when he drew on me thro' Cple, it taking some six weeks to get to me. At first, I felt like returning the draft but thought it might be better to honor it and write him to return the other. But in this, I did not know the man, for since then I have learned that he has always been slack in the matter of his accounts. I knew that he had often asked for more money to use as a loan which leads me to think that he is doing some thing else besides the gosple work. It seems best to us here to let the man go when his year is up and not to pay him any more money. I have written him to pay some of the other workers there, and so if it is possible, to get back some of the money in this way, I shall be pleased with it.

Yesterday we learned from Cple that we had the support of fifty more orphans. From where this help is coming I do not know, but I do know that the help here will do much good. Most o f this fifty we expect to take from Hasdoor, where, last Fall, the latest event of this reigon took place. We have at hand the report of the good work of last year done by Dr. Raynolds, in relief as well as in the orphanage. I wonder if you have yet received the report of the Van journey which I sent out on a tour of addresses, one of whic was yours. The expense of the journey I do not exactly know as Dr. Ussher has the a/c. He got some 35Lt. from me but just how much the entire amount is I do not Know. The consul estimated it at $88 but I fear it cost more. Dr. Ussher is expected here to-day and I can ask him and he will let you know later. He wrote that money on the journey seemed to go like water, until it was hard to keep an a/c of it. This might be seen from the fact that Dr. Ussher received from me some Lt. 35 and he could not at first account for it all, but felt sure he had received more than he had credited me with.

At Easter we have a cantata to give in which most of the two school with their teachers appear. It looks as tho' Spring had come to be permanent. We are all in fairly good health. Greetings to you and Mrs. Barton from us all.

Fraternally yours
Robert S. Stapleton.

Apr. 6, 1900

MAY 28 1900
MAY 28 1900

Erzroom Turkey May 5th 1900.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Just a few lines to-day to tell you of the joy that has come to our home, for we have a little daughter who arrived last Sunday and I am happy to report that mother and baby are doing well. We express no regrets that she is not a boy as those of this country do, for a daughter is as welcomed with us as a son. Dr. Ussher remained with us till Wednesday and then he left for Bitlis on his way home to Van. We have so enjoyed his visit and have thank God for his being with us at this time, and for the blessing that has come to us. Yes she has a name for it would not do to leave her without one. So Miss Grace Natalie Stapleton sends her first greetings to you.

Your favor of the IIth/ of April came to hand yesterday. In regard to the difficency in our balances, I would say, that we do have an account which might correspond to that of the famine relief a/c in which the mistake was made. But this came or rather the money that is in this a/c came thro' the efforts of the English Consul who was here last year. Altho' he agrees with what we do in relief work, there is a question as to whether we had better ask him to do this. He might agree and he might cause some misrepresentations to be set a float and so do us no good. Mr. Chambers is near to him and I will write him as to it and he can best judge how it will be. Col. Massy is I beleive in full sympathy with our work, and yet being so large a sum, it might cause some question in his mind ere he saw the entire thing.

I hope Dr. Ussher told you of the state of affairs here as he saw them, for it might seem as tho' the reports I am making from time to time were colored by my disposistion. Our church is with out a pastor, altho' they may ask him to preach for them till September, as they see that by their contract he has a right to demand his salary till then. I believe the church committee are going to propose that to the church. The other evening, this committee (primed by the president of this community) called a meeting and asked the pastor to come and then asked him when he would pay some I5 liras which he was owing the church. He guessed what was coming and asked our advice. To their demand, he replied when the church paid him what it was owing him., for it seemed to us he had a right to his salary. They evidently had not expected such an answer for they were put out a great deal by it. They seem to have had the idea of getting out of paying this and so were nonplused when it was brought home to them in such a light. They can see that it would not do to have it said, that they do not pay their debts and the evidence is against them here. One thing it seems to me must be impressed upon this people and that is strict honesty in money matters. One, who is now a deacon in the church, some three or more years ago borrowed some six liras from us to start up in a small way and has never offered to pay back the least bit of it. When I spoke to him about

it he felt hurt and said he had work with the church for twenty years and had never received ten paras for it. To this I replied, the church work was theirs and we were out here to help them but not to pay church members for working or doing their ownwork. Out side of this, his past record of work for the church is not unknown to me and it is shaky to say the least.

But I have not time to write more this time, altho' I did wish to report on the Russian part of this field for at last a letter has come from them, the first since last July.

As i said before Mrs Stapleton is doing as well as could be expected and will take the rest needed ere she tries to do any thing.

With greetings to you and Mrs Barton.

Just one word more. My brother in Saginaw speaks of the Sunday school there, who sent five dollars to the Board or one of the Woman's Boards for special work here and they are discouraged some what, because they have received no report from it. I told them that perhaps the letter had never reached the Baard Rooms for no report of it had come to us about it this last year. The place is Saginaw Michigan.

Fraternally yours

Robert S. Stapleton

Aug 5/1900

JUN 19 1900

Erzroom Turkey May 29th.. 1900.

JUL 26 1900

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Since writing you I have been on a short trip to the Passen field .The pastor of this church accompanied me on the trip, as he did or will do on a trip to Erzingan and the Kemah fields which we begin next week. Of the growth or condition of the work, it is hard for me to say for to do this intelligent ly a former knowledge of the work ought to be known. We were met by good attentive audiences, among which many out-siders were to be seen. The pastor of that field lives at Todoveren in which village he seems to wield a great influence, but no gain in membership has been made this past year. In fact, the people are seeking to get out of the country across the border, which is near to them.. We urged upon the pastor work specially for the young, for we found that there was no Sunday school whatever except for the orphans who are there. Another thing, I impress upon them and it is that it is their privilege as well as duty to supply the workers in their children. The pastor himself has three sons and not a single one is in the work and two of them are trying to follow their older brother to the land to the North of us.At Komatsor, the church if any thing seemed more alive. This past year, they have been without their teacher and had a substitute. Now they are ready to pay a quarter of a good teacher's salary which is quite a step from paying nothing-a condition of affairs which existed a year ago.We are trying to find one and think that one of the brethern here will go.In this church, there have been three additions this year.

One event occurred while we were out there which may tell for the work in the future and that was the marriage of a protestant girl, of some force of character, into a family who are, to say the least, enlightened Gregorians and who often attend our services.. Several of the girls in the church are marrying in that way and these may tell in the future.I know such is small hope but it is the consolation we take to our selves when we see our girls marrying into such families. The wedding we attended was that ~~was~~ of the pastor's daughter.

In regard to the Russian field, it is some what hard to decide just what to do.As I said in my last letter, I had some word from them but it was very meager in regard to the state of the work there.. Again I have written for data but as yet Have not received any reply.To my proposition, that they take upon them selves more o f their own financial obligations and so help pay some of Bar.. Zorab's salary, he has replied with a scheme where-by they might become independent of us. It is this-to buy some of the government land and to devote some part of the proceeds to the work.But notice, that we cannot hold such property in Russia and so it must be in his name and so it is a means he has long wo rked for, to make himself in a fair way to be independent of the work, as some other of our workers have done and left the work all together. Not for a mament would we entertain the thought of trying his plan even if we had the

money, for it seems to us here that it is not our mission here to endow the work in this way and so place this people beyond their own duty of supporting the work.
A good word comes from the Kara Kalla field as to the prosperity of the finance s there; but nothing as to data for the tabular report required from us, so that the report from that field will be the same as last year. Such a thing will not occur again, I am sure, for I shall with hold their salary until they send more data..
As to affairs here in Erzroom, the pastor is preaching for some few weeks until he has paid off the overdrawn salary which they are demanding, altho' by right, they are owing him more than that but his desire and that of his wife is not to leave even a shadow of a thing behind whereby these people can talk. In the mean time, the poor man would starve, were it not for what he gets from us for the work he does, as a teacher of languages and carpentry to the orphan boys. The one man at the head of affairs is or seems to be the leader of the trouble and yet has the thought that the pastor will remain and so when some suggested another man as pastor he stopped it by saying it was not yet time and so no one dare gon on with the work. The other day word came that the Arabkir pastor was leaving that field and I notified the committee in regard to him.. What they have done is more than I can say but they learned that he is not acceptable to this man and it may stop there..
And now a word in regard to Dr. Raynolds letter about our school. It seems rather hard that we should be called into account for the short-comings of the former members of this station in regard to the building question. I do not hold with him in many points about the method of building. In the first place, it seems to us that Dr Raynolds must know how impractical it would be in this land to put up a building by sections, because of the difficulty of securing the firmans to do it in that way, as a new one would be needed each time. It seems to me in the long run it would cost much more than to put the entire building up now, even if you count the interest on the entire amount of money used until it would be finished in them way he proposes. His remarks mainly bear upon the doubt of the money being raised.. We here are not so sceptable, and, as the things are going there at home, it would seems as tho' the amount might be raised. What is ten thousand dollars for a school building.? Dr. Raynolds speaks of the condition of the Board's treasury perhaps forgetting it was or is the Woman' Board of the Interior. Whether or no these present buildings could be built for half of what they cost or not I could not say but I doubt it being done here. I do not think the Boy's school was built under any such circumstan ces, for if I am not greatly mistaken, it was to offset or rather to meet the new Gregorian school which was going up then. Now there is no such motive, but what, on the part of all of us, seems to be the great need of the Women's work if it is to prosper on the right basis.. Our city lacks such a school and if one is erected we can be sure of an increased attendence.

We are of the opinion it would be better not to start with out we go right thro' with with it at once.
If possible, we will write again before we leave next week for the Erzingan field. All here are keeping well. Our little daughter is growing finely and Mrs. Stapleton is doing very nicely-being able to take exercise on horse back already. With kind regards to Mrs Barton in which Mrs Stapleton joins me and a share of the same for yourself I remain,

Fraternally yours

Robert S. Stapleton

Erzingan 5 Oct 1906

JUL 26 1900

Erzroom Turkey June 4th. 1900.

Dear Dr. Barton:- I am sending by this post our estimates for the year 1901. I see at the last moment that our final amount exceeds our percentage by four liras. I would cut that down if not granted on the Erzroom High school. If we are to continue this school we feel that an American teacher ought to be in the school most of the time and that we must have some aparatus to work with. To this end it is thought best for me to go into the school next year myself and we are asking for eight liras for the needed aparatus. At one time there was quite a little aparatus but there is nothing now except a telescope and maps which are the worse for use. This last year I sent for a good sized globe which is being paid for out side of the school funds as I can gain the price.

You will see that there has been a little decrease in what some of the churches are receiving from the Board but not as much as we are desireous of seeing. Little by little this will come This is the first year for some time that Khanoos has paid any thing and so there is no difference for that field. Kemah churches needed a rounding up ere we could ask them to take more upon them selves. In fact they are not paying their pastor's salary as it is and this must not be if they wish to keep him. Another letter from the Russian field and instead of answering the questions which he acknowledged I asked him in a letter that I sent, he took up the entire letter with the old quarrel about precedence over the evangelist there. It is almost impossible to reach these workers in this forbibben field, but I will try the one of with-holding their salaries until I get what is needed.

I had a very nice letter from the church committee here in Erzroom regarding some word I have given them in regard to a pastor.. So we will win them to us slowly without giving way to any thing not desired in the line of our policy.

A large number of the people of our community are seeking the ways and means to be landed near to Fresno Cal. More and more is this being done. Three families this week and more to follow as opportunity offers. We may have the Parmelees of Trebizond with us this Summer as they are looking our way.

My semi-annual a/c has gone to Cple. with the balance sheets. From the latter if you see it you will learn that our debt is just paid and we hope to keep free from it again, altho' our a/c in two months or so will be up again as we lay in a stock for the winter. The differences in our balances with Cple. has been corrected at the expense of the General Relief a/c which in '94 received the double credit. To day I have been engaged in giving out wool to spin and the women have been crowding around our front door all morning. With kind regards to you and Mrs. Barton from our entire circle I close.

Fraternally yours

R. S. Stapleton.

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Robert S. Stapleton

Aug 2, 1900

JUL 26 1900

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Fraternally yours

R. S. Stapleton.

Erzroom & Vicinity 1900

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Erzroom, June 4, 1900

JUL 23 1900

next page is 34 mistake made in paging

Erzroom Turkey June 29th.. 1900..

JUL 26 1900

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Your favor of May 28th. awaited me on return from the Erzingan field last week. Referring to it paraghraph by paragraph, I might say that just now the question of the school building is not yet ready to be presented to the Mission, and so perhaps for that reason, it is a good thing that there was no annual meeting this year. I certainly feel that the ground that some take is not warranted and that when the money is forthdoming for this work, as we are praying and believing that it will come, then the condition of the treasury will not act as an argument against it.. I can readily see how that some of our fellow missionaries feel that they could build with less expense were the building in their city.. In Erzingan for instance, a building I think could be constructed for very much less than half of what it will cost here. I visited some of the school buildings there and found them large, airy, well lighted and in every way better than those here. But in the first place, they use sun dried brick and then have the wall little more than eighteen inches thick and in many places less, while here we have to build of stone and having these put up in wood/ mud, they need to be from two to three feet thick. Then again, they are near the forests and timber is much cheaper. But we are not doing any thing yet excepting waiting and praying for the money and rest assured we are going to get it.

As to using our house here as a school it does not seem suitable for such in its arrangement. I suggested it to a mission or rather a station meeting ere your letter came and all thought that it would not be a feasible plan for a permanent thing. We are ready to move into a smaller house, for it would seem more home like for us to say the least. Nay further, we had talked of going to the upper part of the Boy's school and letting the school come here, and at the time of the construction of the new building, we are expecting to do so.

The " laisez faire " policy does not extend to the whole community at all and I am sorry if my letter gave that impression. Nor does it exist at all, when this man is ready to help. But things are perhaps improving on the whole, out side of this man. I agree with you that the right man in that posistion could do a great deal of good but such an one we have not here. Judging from the letters he is sending round he is merely seeking his own honor and seeking our hurt. A man, who is demanding respect in the way he is, cannot gain it. In his heated talk with the pastor, he demanded that the pastor should speak of his boys as Effendi and Agha, even the boy who can hardly read yet. This is what he would have from those in the community and the great trouble against me is that I have failed to respect him in such ways as this. When this man really becomes engaged in the Lord's work in the church, he will often enough find me near him to understand me better for there is where he is not nor his sons. With the community affairs I interfer not except to refuse to pay a ten per cent on our taxes to the collector when we can pay them to the department itself. Instead of the people helping us to pay taxes, they ask this from us and I referred it to the consul.

In regard to the Russian part of the field here it is indeed very difficult . Not only can I not get permission to visit that place but it is almost impossible to send a man there yet we shall try it during this Summer. Miss Lord is expecting to go to Cple. This Summer and she will go by the way of Russia and will perhaps take an escort with her one who may remain a while. If the lady who is coming to Van were able to reach Cple in time, she would have company as far as Erzroom but she would need to hurry.

This week our examinations took place and ended with an exhibition in gymnastics by the girls' school to which a small charge was made

#2.
and the proceeds are to go to the Indian Famine Relief. The exhibition was well attend by the community and outsiders, the consuls Turkish officers and the family of the Persian consul. We fixed a room, thro' the windows of which, they could view the exercises, for we had to have them out-doors as there is no room large enough for such a gathering. The school had lemonade and candies for saleand altho' the charge was small the proceeds came to over $26..00 and to this is to be added another $20.00 from the scho ol and orphanage for the same purpose.
Now as to my trip to the Erzingan field, which I am sorry to say was all too short for the needs of the work. Pastor Dombalian, being to some extent free, went with me and I left him behind for two weeks in Erzingan to reorganize the work there. The Erzingan church came first and here where we hoped to find harmony-as the result of the visit a year ago when we were told all became reconciled to one another and there was open confession and responsive feelings on the part of the injured ones. But the pastor who has not yet finished his first year there, we found, had resigned and the members were again at cross purposes. We studied the field well and came to the conclusion that it was a waste of time to patch up again the assumed quarrels for it would be meerly to encourage them in the sa same, when we were not there and so be ready for another visit when their annual feast of "making up " would take place. For instance, at a church meeting preparatory to the communion we called upon the members for an expression ~~of their~~ of their spiritual condition and instead of telling about their own state they began or one or two began about the misdoings of others, not in a christian spirit and in regard to things that to some would not seem any thing. But one, who has cut himself from the church communion and is steeped in Plymouth Brethren doctrines, began to call up this one and that one in such a manner. Hem has his following in the church altho' not there himself and is a big fly in the pot of ointment. We let him have little place as he would have delighted to break up our service thinking he was doing right since to his mind some of the member were delinquent. We had the service, altho' not all the members joined with us, but five were united with the church and there are still others to, come in to the communion. Among the sisters of the church there seems to be peace and the young men in their meeting seem to be united. So there are many good things as the result of the year's work. But here as in all our field there is a lack of effort on behalf of the young and in them alone do I see the remedy for the church troubles of to-day. True, here in Erzroom as in Erzingan there is a young men's society but what is being done for the boys and girls? We are at work along that line inthis city but else where even their Sunday schools are lacking.
Ere we left Erzingan we had the majority of the church pledged to support the pastor and he promised to remain for another year. The teacher of the school, who unwilling was made a part in the turmoil, will I think remain there to build up even a better school than they have had before and altogether it has a brighter out-look than when we went.
With the Kemah church we found a rather dead state of things which to us will seems impossible to renovate with out the pasto r is removed. He has done a good work there in times past and seems to rest too much on that now for his own good. Then there is another thing which it seems to us hinders him in the work and that is the question of money, not that he is dependent on them so much-as to his salary-but that he has money out at interest among them. H was here last year pleading his poverty and as the year before he had had his two girls in school as beneficiaries we continued to keep them. Now it transpires that he has money out at interest drawing I5%. Let him take his I5% as the others do, but let him not say that he is a poor man and ask for help on that score. We know that

#3.
his house was looted at the time of the massacre but that did not make him a poor man. It looked as tho' he hoped to get back from us what he then lost. Mr. C. reported last year that he did not have a carpet on his floor nor the dishes to place the food in before his guest, so that I had dreaded going there for fear it might embarras him to have us there. But such is not the case now for there was plenty of every thing at hand. There is need of a young man there, for there seems to be a good opportunity for work and a person to whom the people are not bound in money matters.
Here as I said before there is no work for the young, but the two girls, whom we took, home from our school, we hope will start a Sunday school and perhaps a little society for the girls.
The church work here in the city is in charge of the church committee that has for one of its members a retired pastor so that he comes in for a good deal of preaching, but in general the work is in a good condition as a result of the pastor's work here. When the ladies first came, they were asked to take charge of the womans meeting which they did, until it was permitted for the pastor to step in and to monopolize the leading of the meetings an d now as a result instead of thirty as they use to have there is an attendance of from eight to ten, and they do no work. Now they seek Miss Lord's help again and she will give it if permitted to have a few changes. That is one trouble with our pastor he fails to get others to work and thinks little of the efforts of the gentler sex at any time. But a change is coming and he will I hope see his error.
Our relief work is growing until yesterday there were at least a hundred women at our doors ~~yesterday~~ seeking wool to, spin It is a much better plan to give work than money out-right and we pay good wages for the work done.
As a station, we are in good health and have been so busy so that our reports are some what late for which we are very sorry but we hope to get them away by the next post on Tuesday. I hope you received our estimates, and now could I ask a favor from you, which is to send me a copy of the same, as in my absence they were forwarded without a copy being taken and I wish to send a copy to Mardin besides keeping one here for reference. Many thanks for the good wishes for our little daughter who is keeping quite well and growing nicely. With kind regards to Mrs Barton and to your self from our entire circle.

Fraternally yours

Robert S. Stapleton

Sagrona, June 29, 1900

AUG 3 1900

24 the page previous to this is 14 mistake made in paging

Erzroom Turkey July 10th. 1900.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Herewith I am sending my report for the year with the regret that it is so late and then just at the last moment I had to change it in regard to the Erzingan church. Pastor Dombalian returned from his visit and reports a good work begun there. The preacher there had become so discouraged with the work that it was thought useless for him to remain, and the church then gave a unanimous call to the former teacher who is a conscientious Christian and I think he will do well with the work. The last Sunday he was there they had a second communion service when three more new members were received and several baptisms occurred.

The result of the plague running round some of these cities is, that they are keeping our city cleaner this year than ever before. We are looking for the Parmelees who are to spend the Summer with us at the tents to which we go this coming week. Will you please extend our sincere thanks to the Board and kind friends who have made it possible for us to receive that book of the late Dr. Storrs which came to hand last week. The news of his translation came by the same post and our thoughts were not all of sorrow for the noble life is not ended, for tho' he is not seen any more, his influence still lives.

Greetings from us all to Mrs. Barton and yourself. About fifty women are waiting down stairs for me to go and give them wool to spin.

Fraternally yours Robert S. Stapleton

Organizing Secretary

Erzroom Turkey Nv. 3rd. 1900.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Your favor of the6th. of Oct. came to hand this morning and I hasten to reply and to explain my long silence. I have also to acknowledge a previous letter with a copied list of our estimates made for the coming year.

The last mentioned letter came just before I began a struggle with typhoid fever, which kept me to the house for nearly five weeks and this week is the first ~~week~~ in which, I have being going out freely. It was a light attack, but kept at it for some time. How I came to get it passes my comprehension, for we have only boiled water on the table. Mrs. Stapleton doctored me and I could not wish for a better. And here, I might just say a word about the work she is doing along her line. Of course she is not permitted to practice in the regular, nor is she trying it, not that any objection has been raised to her work. But at times, she is called upon to go and see a bed-ridden patient. It is seldom she does this, but in one or two instances she has gone. The other week, she was asked, as a favor to our consul, to go and see the child of the Hzier Bey. They sent a carriage for her and she went. Here the work was to make the child do what she was told and finally she brought the child to our home where we kept her for a night. The move was a good one so that the child, who at first would not even look at Mrs. Stapleton for a full half hour, would do any thing the "Madama" said. The parents tho' Turks seemed to place confidence in Mrs S. and the girl is now well. For this work, we have several times been nicely remembered. As a result of this several Turkish women patients are coming to the house for treatment. Now it is the dragoman of the Russian consulate, who has been sick for some eight months. It is very hard to refuse to go when there is a possibility of doing good as in this instance. The man who is very sick is the father of five little ones, who if he should be taken away would be in great need for years to come.

Most of her work is among the poor, who come to the house for treatment in the mornings. The two piasters, which she charges and sometimes gets, goes to pay for medicine for the poorest who cannot buy it at any price. She has one or two cases which have paid well and by which we will be able to meet Dr. Ussher's expenses for coming here last spring when our little one arrived. That bill was about $44.00 and it will be met by these special cases as there is no other allowance for doctors and medicines. Mrs Stapleton has no Board to which she can report this work, as she is not reconized by any except as my wife. The ladies speak of the work she does for them but that is all. The drug room and instruments, belonging to the orphanage, enables her to do the work she does or else she would be greatly handicaped by lacking these. By treating the orphans she is saving the orphanage a yearly bill of 24 liras but some of this is used to get needed instruments & medicines

And now about my own work which is mostly in the school. As I said in my annual report, ~~that~~ we had lost some what by the emmigratins to America, but in their place have come some Gregorian boys who were not with us this last year, and my being in school has kept several in school who other-wise would have gone out. I believe it is going to pay in time to give more time and attention to the s school than it has received in the last few years. There was great need in the way of discipline and even in instructions to the teachers in methods. That is why I have been getting some American books to show them a little of the methods used there. All read English and so may gain some good from them. To supplement these from time to time we are to have teacher's conferences.

Up till this time there is a little marked change in the school and we hope that it will extent even to higher things. It may be that after Xmas we shall begin a class in French as that language is much desired among this people and among our teachers there are two who are able to given lessons in the beginning French. This will extend also to the Girls' school also.

And now as to the Girls' school building question. In your last but one favor, you spoke of the school taking this property and converting the stable into a school and using the house as the boarding department. Good; and we were in favor of the planfor we would be content to live in a smaller house as it would be more home like for us. But if the question was of less expen se we are afraid that nothing would be gained by it. For in the first place if a transference of property was effected the American Board, it seems to me, would desire enough in the transference to erect two smaller houses for the two families which ought to be stationed here and for which this house is big enough and of late years was considered enough for the two families. The other property we fear would hardly pay for the pulling down, so could be considered very little toward the two houses needed. What the Board would feel like giving this property for is better known to you ~~us~~ than to us. In the second place, the barn here, tho' remarkable for its size thro' out the Mission, would need a great deal of expense upon it ere it became fit for a school. The upper part would have to be rebuilt as it would not be warm enough for a school, and then the roof rafters would need to be changed as will be the case in a few years even as it is. The roof does not leak but I noticed the beams the other day as bending. The entire station look over the stable the other day and came to the conclusion that nothing would be saved by way of money were they to try to make these premises do for the school. Dr. Raynolds wr ites this last week asking, "if the school had this house, ~~if it~~ would it be large enough for the school and boarders. The consensus of opinion here is, that ~~is~~ not now even, to say nothing what we hope the school will be in a few years.. There is a greater demand to enter the boarding department with a desire to pay a greater part of the needed funds. Two years ago, thereis no record of the boarding department receiving anything, altho' there was a little received. This year the boarded paid 23 liras or $101.00. This we think will increase as the work is pushed in the way it is being pushed just now.

You will be interested in hearing how we are doing this year with the boarders, for we felt that the American teachers must not stay at the school building this winter; and as they would not leave the boarders, why we had to bring the entire department, including the two native teachers, whose homes are not in this city.. So here we are some twenty persons in this house with the likelihood of one or two more. We did try to see if it would be possible to get a permission to change or rebuild the lower house, this giving the needed rooms for the boarding department with one or two extra rooms for schoolpurposes. But the Vali said that he could not do it as the three houses where classed as a school; and to rebuild a part of them would require permission from Cple., We thought that perhaps with the money already in hand and what might come by Spring, that at least a part of the needed changes could be done which would be sufficient for the time being. But seeing that permission has to come from Cple. it is thought best to ask permission for the entire structure at the one time. Plans are being prepared to send to America for approval and the advice of an architect as to support &c, in its construction.

In speaking of building, I would say that since Summer a bakery a with a bath room connected has been put up in the boys' school yard, but in our name; and tho' for the orphanage use, will be our property when this institution passes away. The building is not quite finished nor is there any hurry as the market bread is cheap enough just now.

In your last letter, you express the wish that the relation between the church and our circle is improving and I think that I can say it is. But there is the one man at the head who is still at odds with us, and as I said before nothing but a return to the old order of things will satisfy him; and that was when not only they had a say as to how the money was spent, but it was paid thro' him and so this gave him the handling of the money which I doubt not he used to his own advantage; as I have experience with him since I came. With his family we are on friendly terms, for I do not know that they share his sentiments. He has not troubled me of late but our ladies have been the ones with whom he is displeased. This he has not shown openly but has worked the church committee to this end. I would say that the church have called a preacher from Moush and thus have robbed the Bitlis field of the only pastor outside of the city. For this, we are very sorry; and their defence is that pastors go where they please and that Trebizond took their pastor, and so forth. But this man, who is coming, is making this merely a stepping stone to be nearer Fresno Cal. for it is easier here to get away.

Now for a word about the work outside. We have been able to supply the village of Komatsor with a teacher and Bible worker combined in one man. This is a promising field with the right man. This is a part of the Passen church. The Khanous church does not report well at all. In fact the preacher resigned because the church would not keep their pledge andbecause of their attitude toward him resulting from the relief work which he had in charge. There was no place to put him at this time, except to call him into the city,

where he is now teaching in our school. That church is without a preacher this year and perhaps they will come to appreciate what help they have been receiving in the past and be willing to do something themselves. No the field is not entirely vacant for in Pert of that district an old worker is teaching and preaching. Of his work, I hope to have more to say later. Of the Erzingan church there is something good to say. The pastor of last year became too discouraged to be rallied so he left and went to Van. The teacher, who was there last year, has become an acceptable preacher and he teaches the higher branches in their school. Hem is an earnest Christian worker. We look for good results this year. With this chur I am making for self support and their per cent of self help has risen from43 to50 for this year. It ought to be higher and I hope it will rise higher in the near future. The two villages of the Kemah church will have both teaching and preaching this winter. Of late, more news has come from the Russian part of our field. It is not the most reassuring news for there are several items about which it is hard to decide. I am sorry to say that the Evangelist and the only preacher of the field live in the same village and they do not get along peaceably. This is to be greatly regreted for it causes divisions in the one church where unity ought to exist; and both are seeking to get the advantage of the other. To this end, both have urged the need of an ordained man as there is not one at all there just now. One urges that the church desires him to be the one, but I strongly suspect that it is a desire to have it so as to feel above the other and to just exult. I do not know the men so the case was refered to Mr. Chambers. I know the one - the Evangelist-has been very urgently pressing me to forward him the salaries for next year even now, so that he or they might buy some land which he says would be for the work. This merely means to help him in increasing his posessions which he has now. N / his request was not granted at all and I am drawing a tight reinon him as far as finances go.

He writes me now that Bar Marderos who is down as teaching at Etchmiadzin, has for the past three years been sitting in his house at Samaghar. Whether Mr. Chambers knew this or not I do not know but I've written to find out. His allowance from us was six liras a year and this I stopped this year until I heard from you. It hardly seems to me that the Board is in the pension business nor do I think they wish to start a precedent here.

One of our teachers here has consented to visit there next year and report about the work. He would even settle there and work for us if we decided so.

This has been a hasty glance over this large field and it has its bright spots as well as its shadows. In our home we are all well. The little one is doing nicely and is indeed the sunshine o f the circle. I trust you and Mrs Barton and the children are doing well I think of you this week as returning from your trip to Mexico. You doubtless saw my friend and fellow class mate Mr. Howard Stutson. With greeting from us all as a circle I remain

Fraternally yours

Robert S. Stapleton

JAN 7 1901 26

Erzroom Dec 8th 1900

Dear Dr Barton:-

Just a line to day to send our New Year's greetings to you and Mrs Barton. The enclosed picture is of our little daughter who has been with us now some seven months. She is indeed our sun shine.

This past week I've been busy with my semi annual a/c and balance sheet which leaves me to day for Cple. Our a/c's balance is again on the right side and we mean to keep it there if possible.

Two weeks ago yesterday the Erzroom church heard its new preacher who is an earnest Christian worker. So we pray that a blessing may attend his coming to us. The other day I wrote Mr Wiggins as to the putting out at interest some of the funds we have on hand which are lying idle for a year or so.

All unite in the best wishes for the New Year to your home.

Fraternally Yours

Robert S. Stapleton

Rev. Robt S. Stapleton
Erzroom Dec 8 1900

FEB 4 1901

Erzroom Turkey Jan. 10th.. 1900.

Rev. J.L.Barton
Boston Mass. U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Barton:- I have two letters from you to acknowledge and with them the appropriations from the two Boards having work here. For all we give thanks and especially that the appropriations are on time.

Many thanks for the good wishes for the New year which is with us, and yet it has to come, for the native New year is still late. So far, the winter has been very mild which perhaps accounts for so much sickness in our city just now. Our New Year's day was a busy one as we had a larger number of visitors than ever. Just now, we are in the midst of examinations in preparation for the vacation which comes next week. This rest will give me an opportunity to get the many letters written that are waiting for such a time.

I think the examinations show some better work in the schools but still the standard desired is far ahead. The school work of the Sabbath is making progress, as far as numbers go, for the three departments are having increased numbers each week. Yet there are so many children within the sound of the church bell who do not go to any bible school at all. It is difficult at times to find teachers for the girls Sunday school so, fearful are the mothers of their daughters appearing in the work, for fear it might injure their chances for marriage. As I reported in my note a month ago, the church here has a new preacher who seems to be starting right. If he could get this people to work for the Master he would accomplish a great deal. Speaking of the school work for this year, it is very noticeable how well the Orphans stand in the classes; for they head the list in both schools. One little girl died in the orphan home last week . This is the first death among the children for almost two years. She was indeed a little sun-beam, for such we thought her as a Sun-shine society in America was caring for her.

As to the Russian part of the field, letters are more frequent of late but they only show the deploreable state in which the work is there. This one, who since '96 has been receiving salary from us as a pension, was the only one who was ordained there and as a result of his retiring from the work, they have been without the administration of the sacraments. I understood that it was not according to the policy either of the Mission or of the Board to give pensions to their workers on the field. I wrote the one - Bar Zorab Sarkisian - who reported the case to me and who is some sort of a relative of his, that the people, for whom Bar. Marderos has worked so long, ought to help him now in his day of need. They have the idea that these are our workers instead of owning them as theirs. This thought I am trying to instil into their minds. that the preachers are their workers and not ours at all and so is the work. Perhaps after a time we will succeed in this point.

Bar Marderos

Just now there is no man there who could go and take up the work in Russia. There is one who may visit there this Summer but we do not think him the man to remain and carry on the work. There is a lack of workers thro' out the field. The preacher in the Passen field seems to be the only one who is working in harmony with the people. The pastor of the Kemagh church wrote me the other day, in response to my letter of condolence at the loss of his son, that he had greater sorrow from the treatment of some of the community than he had over the death of his son. The worker in Erzingan is a thorough Christian worker but the disturbing element, which has so long upset things there generally, will not let him work in peace. It seems to be the nature of these people to have a fuss so often. This last week the book seller of the station brought in his report. During this last year he has sold $50.00 worth of books. When I came here the then-book seller was getting 50% of his sales, but just where the money came from I do not know. I at once cut it down to 25% and last year made another cut so that his commission is 20% which leaves us 5% for expenses. He made a great objection to this but I told him that the book room must be run on business principles and if he wished to meet all expenses he might have the 25% commission which took all the discount we received. There is a large demand for school books other than those published by our press in Cple. and in the sale of which there is greater profit. it has been thought desireable to put in a little stock of these for our own school and for the Gregorian school to which he would sell quite a number.

To-day's post brought a letter from Mardin pertaining to the recall of Mr. Larkin. As Mr. Larkin was practically un knownto the Mission except from letters, it would seem to us that Mardin ought to have the say about it and not try to bring the Mission to help them out of a muddle. They do not wish him there, or one is led to infer from the letter they send round containing something which we think ought not to go the round of the Mission It would have been enough to say that they thought that Mr. Larkin not suitable I shall write this to them to-morrow and thus offer my protest to such a letter. We return the vote untouched for them to decide nay to follow their minds already made up.

The health report of our circle is fairly good. During our Xmas week Miss Bushnell was sick with a very badly infected finger and this gave us great anxiety . As the infection seemed to be deeply situated several cuts had to be made. But now the danger is past and she is able to see to her work. Our little Natalie is getting better from the vacination which we administered two weeks ago. As I said there is much sickness in the city and Mrs Stapleton has several patients among the orphans and outside friends.

All unite in greetings to you and Mrs Barton. During the vacation we are to draw some plans for the needed school which Miss Lord will send to you then and perhaps we may write again then.

Fraternally yours

Robt S. Stapleton

Tampa, Fla. 10/1/1901

APR 9 1901
APR 25 1901

Erzroom March 15th 1901

Dear Dr Barton:-

It was my intention when the sketches for the plans of the desired school building left two weeks ago to have sent a letter along with them, but they took up so much time that the post left us without a word from me.

Since then a portion of the roof belonging to the school buildings, that is over the kitchen part, has fallen in. It was considered unsafe to walk upon it and so the snow remained upon it and the final melting has brought the entire roof down. Another portion seems to be sinking so that it seems unsafe to be in the rooms under it. I think Miss Lord has explained the need of the surface of the ground floor which on the second story seems to give so much extra room. The sketches are according to their suggestions. For this building we have in hand over fifteen hundred dollars which, with the consent of Mr Peet has been put out at interest

under Mr Wiggins care. The Woman's Board for the Interior last year pledge two thousand dollars. But we realize this comes far short of what would be needed for the building the need of which is being very severely felt. As Miss Lord has said, I firmly believe that such equipment would greatly increase the school's influence in this city for there is nothing to compete with it among the Armenians schools.

There were several details not mention in the sketch which ought to be stated. The height of the varies stories ought to be expressed. The basement ought to be at least ten feet while the first floor should be fifteen feet and ten feet given to the second floor. The thickness of the floors is a question in this country for earth is used which helps to keep the rooms warm and prevents the sound from passing from story to story. The method of ventilation here is to have a tile placed in the walls which gives contact with out side air. The system of water drainage in

our street is surface drainage altho' in places a cesspool filled with stones gives a way of escape to much surface water. The first floor would be four feet from the street level in front which at the back would be ~~less~~ above as the ground declines in that direction.

The native roof is of earth and therefore very heavy needing good stout walls and supports. I think in Harpoot they have used iron on their new building. Some government buildings have the same kind of roof while one large house has a cement roof. It is almost necessary to have a flat roof if not nothing else than the opportunity it gives for out door recreation in the months that winter is breaking up when the streets are unfit for walking and it is almost impossible to get out. Then it is necessary to have the flat roof for drying the clothes. The thickness of the walls is because they are merely put up in mud above the water table as lime is so dear with

which to mix mortar.

Then wood or scantlings are used in the walls to bind them more firmly. There is nothing to obstruct the light just now so that ordinary windows are sufficient for these rooms.

Such is the condition of the school building or part of it, that two teachers and three girls are sick with typhoid fever, both teachers & girls being in the same rooms.

Perhaps this is enough on the school subject for the present.

Next week I will write about the work and especially developements in Russia. With greetings from us all as a circle being in fairly good health I remain

Fraternally Yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Engroons, March 15, 1901

Re. Girls' School.

APR 15 1901.

APR 20 1901

Erzroom March 22nd 1901.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

It is some time since you have heard of our work here a fact which you will say ought not to be. The work in the Russian part of our field has caused a deal of correspondence not only with the workers but with some of our sister station who know something about the work there. You know of the need of an ordained pastor there and while we were examining into the matter, for there were two men available between whom there has existed some bitter contention for a number of years past, one of them to be ahead, called a company of people together from the various villages and allowed them to ordained him as a minister. This was done without consulting us and to our ideas without an ordained man or organized church being represented there. I've written him very sharply upon the subject and finally for that and other reasons

we have thought it best to suspend him for the time being if not altogether to drop him from our list of workers. His name is Baron Zorab Sarkisian who has considerable property which takes quite a little of his time and has given him prestege in the division he has caused in the village of Samaghar his native village where also Bar Hovhannes Kalousdian lives and work. The division had gone so far that Bar. Zorab had a separate church service in his own house.

On the other hand Bar. Hovhannes has asked for ordination in proper form and may come here for that purpose in September at which time he wishes to bring one or two of his children here to school. I have felt from the first that Bar Zorab was in the wrong and again that he was using the evangelistic touring as an avocation or almost a hobby for which he was receiving thirty liras a year. Perhaps the expression in the last sentence is too

strong. My feeling has been that he was not dealing justly with us for the allowance he was receiving. I have written again and again for a report of his work and up to this time, nothing has come which can be called a receipt or report of work, visits made to the villages, meetings held, attendance at such, spiritual condition and such data which one feels he needs. This is also a reason for the suspension mentioned above. He has written enough of late but the main object has been to beg money. Once I thought of sending you his letters yet I fear they would need more explanation than the writings he has sent.

The church and community of Kara Kalla are seeking permission to emmigrate to America in a body. Sir just received the name of Rev S. G. Wilson of Tabriz Persia, to whom I thought of writing to see if any of their number were passing thro' Russia and if so whether they could not give the work there a little attention

and report to us. Our idea would be even to go farther and ask if they could not take that work over altogether as they have the opportunity of seeing it and the workers where as we have not. If Bar Hov. Kaloustian succeeds in coming over here this Summer, we may then see how the true state of things affect his staying there. We are needing an ordained man in the Kharpoot field and it may be a change of workers would ease matters a little.

This entire field almost needs a change. The pastor of the Kemagh church wrote that the actions of certain of the community gave him greater sorrow than the news of his son's death. The Erzingan church is undergoing the "weeding" process just now and those who have gone so far astray have been disciplined and some have been dropped from the church roll. This action tho' regretable in many ways has been forced upon the church by these members in self-preservation. Bar Hagop Israelian who is at work there is

an earnest X'an worker and I trust he will be led of the Holy Spirit to remain there and carry on the work as he has began. I am slowly feeling my way about the contemplated changes. One thing appears as an obstacle and that is many of the workers tho' having been in the field for some years are unordained men. These churches need ordained men. We as a circle have been thinking of calling all the workers here for a week's prayer and conference to close with an ordination service for several of the workers. These would be ordained as Evangelists rather than as established pastors. I am about to write to the other stations in regard to it and we would like a word from you on the question.

If possible this Easter vacation we wish to visit the Passen church. But there the work is perhaps the best among the out stations.

The work here in Erzroom is in good hands for the pastor is a true worker. And

yet the church and community are losing members by whole families moving away to America. Eight person will leave in a week or so and three or four families as soon after Easter as it is possible. The school work in both branches ~~are~~ is moving nicely, altho' just now the Girls' school is some what upset by sickness of teachers one of whom has a heavy attack of typhoid fever. I hope you received my letter sent last week upon the question of the need of the new school building; where in the fact was emphasized that this sickness seems to be traceable to the poor condition of the school building. One little fellow among the orphans passed away this week. He had no parents or friends except one poor poor uncle. I feel that he was prepared to go and as he went, he sent farevs and kisses to the Badville and Madonna. He was buried by the Gregorian church in great honor as the Arachmort with three priests and choir were in attendance. I remain

With greetings to Mrs Barton & yourself Yours fraternally Robt. S. Stapleton

Erzeroum Mch. 22, 1901

R 29 1901

Erzroom April 6th 1901

Dear Dr Barton:-

Here we are on the eve of our Easter with the native Easter a week later. We are planning to spend the Easter week in the Passen field. We wished the time permitted us to extend our visit into the Khanoos field where a much longer time is needed. The principal village of Khanoos has not yet been brought to feel the need of their doing something themselves if they are to live as a church or community. They have made some slight promise but not such as they should do nor in any binding form. It is our earnest desire to see a redistribution of workers and to place a man there who will stir them up to their right condition.

This last Thursday evening we had a circle held communion service in our home to which we invited all our workers here. The Erzroom church has been very neglegent in regard to this observance for it is now a year since this

ordinance was held among them altho' for four months of the time they had an ordained man as pastor. It may be that our observance in this way will stir them up to greater desire, for there is a growing desire on the part of many to hold this service oftener.

Yesterday, Mr Berghoz our consul left us for a vacation which when it terminates will see his resignation from this position for he does not expect to return. His father died in January so for some time he will be busy settling up the estate. He expects to reach New York about May 10th and two months later I suppose his resignation will go in to head quarters. Now could you help us by securing a good man for this position? Such an one is Dr Jewett or Prof. Norton who would give a moral support to the work as well as doing duty in protecting rights of American citizens. The one who has just left us, tho' doing every thing asked of him willingly, yet because of two unfortunates events seemed to have taken offence

and did not fail to be unjust in his talk of the work and workers even in the presence of officals. The first event was over money matters. My predecessor had forwarded money to him every quarter and he saw no reason why I should not do so. But when he came to drawing or over drawing in the one quarter I had to say that such I could not do. This he took as an insult but it was business and he ought to have accepted the explanation of my position sent him. But he did not and to make it worse it was just then that Dr Ussher's journey letter reached us with an ill chosen phrase referring to the Consuls. Since then it has been a question how any thing would be received by him.

I have gone into this long detail to shew how affairs have been here. He was angry but acted in a manner that said he had little cause for it.

Just now, Mr Ugalvo is in charge acting as Vice consul altho' I do not think that he is recognized as such.

There is some talk of moving the consulate to Trebizond for commercial purposes. It would be a loss to us here and removing our consul further away from Van & Bitlis where they need the consul more than we do here. If this is done a consul ought to be established at Van or Bitlis.

This week we have felt compelled to begin tearing down the stable and part of the building both belonging to the Girls' School. The roof of one part had fallen in and the wall was ready to fall, the stable wall (used as wash house) had fallen leaving the roof in a very unsafe condition as for the children in the school yard. It was very certain that to repair it would be money ill-spent and so to prevent any suit for damages from the wall & roof falling on some one we decided to pull down.

With greetings to you & Mrs Barton, whom I hope the spring time finds in good health, from our circle all of whom are in good health, I remain

Fraternally Yours Robt S. Stapleton

JUN 20 1901

Erzroom Turkey May 25th, 1901.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Your favor of April 8th, came to us somewhat delayed, as just now we are having some trouble with the post, on account of discussions at the Metropolis as to foreign post entering that city. At a station meeting last evening, we carefully considered the needs of our field and so great are these needs that it was, and is difficult to know just where to begin. We have a wide field with large gaps where we are not working. From time to time from the city of Baibourt to the North of us (but in this province) with its large number of villages, there has come the cry for a teacher and to us it seems there ought to be an evangelist in that region which is at least two days away from here. In that city alone, there are some 4000 Armenians and the numerous villages would bring the number up to many more thousands. Then there is the plain at the door of this city, with its hundred villages and not a single worker in the entire field. The church here in the city does not appreciate its great privilege-in opening the work there great as the need is . There are at least 4000 houses in this field among which an evangelist might do a great deal of good. Were the money but at hand, we think there is a worker ready who seems fitted for the work. Turning to another part of this large field, some three or four days to the East, is the Alashkerd plain where two years ago one of our old workers lost his life at the hands of the Kourds. That plain has many villages where no work is being done and the spiritual condition of these villages can hardly been conceived

althe' they are known as nominal Christians. It is one mass of darkness and superstition.

In the city of Erzroom the great needs of the work are inthe line of buildings. The church is too small an edifice to hold the large noon congregations that assemble on Sunday .Furthermore many more would come were there room for them.

The need of a new school building for the girls' school here has been often emphasized and all the more now, as for the safety o f passers-by on the street and the children in the yard, we have had to pull down some of the old building and feel that this Summer more of the building must be pulled down. Here we have two American ladies who are trying to keep a school under discouraging difficul ties which might be removed by a new school. Then when we have room for a Kindergarten department there is a great open ing for an American teacher along that line. This department pays very well here, and when two years ago, when with poor teachers there was what was called a kindergarten, it brought more than half the school's proceeds.

Another city in this field is Erzingan from whence comes a cry for a good teacher and bible-woman. The present pastor is an aggressive one and like Elijah his work so far has been to clean up the church and call the church members to account. They had become so loose that they find it an easy thing to return to the old church from whence they came. If he had these two workers to help him in the work with women the work would be placed on a good foundation

and the church in a fair condition to make its labors felt.

The following is a summary of the needs of the Erzroom field as expressed above.

Native workers:-

An evangelist for the Erzroom plain to reach 4000 homes otherwise untouched. $176.00.

An evangelist for Baibourt city and plain. A field of 3000 houses without an evangelistic worker. $176.00.

A good lady-teacher for this city(Baibourt) where little or nothing is being done for the girls. Including rent--- $176.00.

An evangelistic worker for the Alashkerd plain, 25 villages without a worker and sorely in need of one. $176.00.

This last place has lately written for a school for girls.

A college-graduate for girls' school and a bible-woman for the city of Erzingan. Yearly salary for both, $140.00

Buildings. Erzroom:-

A building for the girls' school imperatively needed. Already appropriated $2000.00 besides $1500.00 in hand. The full amount needed to give it a suitable building, $12000.00.

Apparatus for the same school needed now $200.00

A new church edifice for Erzroom. 3/4 of amount $6600.00

An American teacher A qualified Kindergartener $400.00 yearly

On behalf of the station respectfully submitted. Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

and the church in a fair condition to make its labors fair.

The following is a summary of the needs of the Mrzoom field as expressed above.

Native workers:-

An evangelist for the Mrzoom plain to reach 4000 homes otherwise untouched. $176.00.

An evangelist for Balbount city and plain. A field of 8000 homes without an evangelistic worker. $176.00.

A good lady-teacher for this city(Balbount) where little or nothing is being done for the girls. Including rent--- $176.00.

An evangelistic worker for the Alashkerd plain, 28 villages without a worker and sorely in need of one. $176.00.

This last place has lately written for a school for girls.

A college-graduate for girls' school and a bible-woman for the city of Mrzingan. Yearly salary for both. $140.00

Buildings. Mrzoom:-

A building for the girls' school imperatively needed. Already appropriated $2000.00 besides $1500.00 in hand. The full amount needed to give it a suitable building. $12000.00.

Apparatus for the same school needed now $200.00

A new church edifice for Mrzoom. 3/4 of amount $6600.00

An American teacher A qualified Kindergartener $400.00 yearly

On behalf of the station respectfully submitted. Pratermally yours

Mrzoom station of Eastern Turkey
Mrzoom, May 25, 1901

Mar 28

Erzroom Turkey June 15th. 1901.

Dear Dr. Smith:-

Your kind favor reached me about a week ago. It is not often that I am able to write from this point as we are so busy and here it would seem that in some way the vote for the coming of an experienced colleague has failed to pass the mission. I refer to the return of Mr. H. M. Allen who offered to come here but as he had been in this Mission before, the vote to recall him was necessary. But this is strange as so many of the stations are infaver of his return. Dr. Raynolds of Van, with whom Mr. Allen was formerly associated when in this field, favors his return as does also Mr. Cole of Bitlis and Dr. Barnum of Harpoot speaking for himself said, that, if Dr. Raynolds who knew Mr. Allen would recommend it, he was heartily in favor of it. Dr. Dewey of Mardin wires me that the vote did not pass and it would seem we are doomed to disappointment for the time being. It may be that some did not vote and these were counted against it, a thing not supported it seems to me by the general Rules for Order. Some in our Mission if they can possibly get out of voting will do so-especially the ladies.

Herewith I'm sending the Tabular view for last year with the Estimates for next year 1902. You will see that the report for the work in the Russian part of the field is lacking in every thing almost. I have faithfully tried all this last year to get figures from them but without result. Furthermore I have tried to get at the workers but without result as our only communication is by letter. We are not permitted to visit there at all, nor have we found a man here who we felt could be trusted, who could go. There has been a bitter quarrel between the two workers there for several years past and

that has not been a helped to the work. One who has been drawing a full salary from us has many other interests of his own in the business line, farms, mills and stores which it has seemed to us has occupied too much of his time and attention. This last two years he has been writing continually for us to forward him $450.00 with which he would buy some land in his name, a part of which he would hand over to the use of the work and thus make it free from aid from us. But his other transactions of which I have heard show the man too much, not that I would stop a moment with such a scheme. One feels utterly helpless with such people when you cannot see them face to face. What the outcome will be I do not know. One fact is being brought out and that is to see what the people will do for themselves as this man has been suspended from our rolls and is now at work for himself, and is working among the villages to show us how a certain plan of his will work out. He is a prolific writer and it would not at all surprise me to learn that he had written to Boston blaming me with every thing. Now if Mr. Allen were to come here he would be a great help in many of these things. Yet I feel that the course taken has been right, altho' not according to the ideas of this people some of whom seem to think that it is impossible for them to err. When I try to teach righteousness in business matters, they say "well it is our way". Yet it is seen that it is not always their way if the matter concerns their own interest. But you no doubt know about this people as well as I do. I hasten to forward the enclosures which I realize are late. Our reports will be ready in a week or so. Fraternally Yours Robert S. Ba

Erzroom Turkey July 26th. 1901.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.

Congregational House

Boston Mass. U. S. A.

Dear Dr Smith.

Your favor of the 2nd inst came to hand this morning. The question as to the Girls' school building rightly belongs to the lady teachers of our station altho' we all are deeply interested in it and we as a family especially as we are somewhat crowded as we have taken into the Mission house the entire boarding department of the girls' school with the two native teachers. So perhaps I can answer your questions as to the permission desired. First of all an application was made thro' our consul some time last year, who reported the same to the legation at Cple. In response, we were told that plans of the building desired must be furnished with the request. We tried to draw them and forwarded a copy on to Boston for more advice from an architect. They were returned to us with the instructions that we must ask the Mission's permission to make the application for the building. It seemed a little strange that such advice had not come before and our ladies felt not a little discouraged as they knew that the Mission had already written about our need of a building and kept blaming some one for the mistakes made here in the past along the line of building.

At last our ladies with hearty approval of the station submitted a vote to the mission asking permission to use the money we have already on hand, with the grant made two years ago by the W.B.M.I. and also asking

for an additional aid to enable us to put up that which will be enough to meet our immediate and pressing needs.. This ought to reach Boston soon after this does if not before.

Just now our ladies are in Cple. and while there they may try to get the permission if the plans, they have, are sufficent. If not, up on their return we will again draw some plans to be submitted.

As to the permission I for on. would be more sanguine about getting it if the Board would stand behind the appropriation..

Here we are in the midst of our vacation but we find plenty of work to keep us busy. This year we are remaining in the city and enjoying the quiet of the house all to ourselves. Mrs Stapleton has refused to see any sick except the most urgent cases. The Industrial work has been stopped for the Summer altho' this is a small work . But the time is fast passing and next week we hope to have our much delayed reports. A part of the report of the Girls' school worh has not come to hand as Miss Bushnell was toobusy ere she went away to give it in for copying an d as yet we have not heard from her since she arrived in Cple.

This last week we received that book of books to the missionary of the A.B.C.F.M. viz/, the Manual. But the Board Almanac has not reached us this year.

With greetings to you from our circle as it just now I remain

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Filed Aug. 23

or an additional aid to enable us to put up that which will be enough to meet our immediate and pressing needs. This ought to reach Boston soon after this does if not before.

Just now our ladies are in Opie. and while there they may try to get the permission if the plans they have are sufficient. If on their return we will again draw some plans to be submitted to the permission I for one, would be more satisfied if the board would stand behind the appropriation.

Here we are in the midst of our vacation but we find plenty of work to keep us busy. This year we are remaining in the city and enjoying the quiet of the house all to ourselves. Mrs Stapleton has refused to see any sick except the most urgent cases. The industrial work has been stopped for the Summer altho' this is a small work . but the time is fast passing and next week we hope to have our much delayed reports. A part of the report of the girls' school work has not come to hand as Miss Mumbell was tooway to give it in. For copying and as yet we have not seen her since she arrived in Opie.

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With greetings to you from our circle as it just now I remain

Fraternally yours

Erzroom Yurkey August 10th. 1901.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.

Congregational House Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith:-

I am sending by to-day's post the two reports at hand of the work of the Erzroom station. A copy of Miss Lord's has already gone to the Woman's Board of the Interrior at Chicago. I am indeed sorry that they are so late yet hope they will be in time for the general review of the work.

It seems too bad that Mr Herbert Allen could not have come on here as he knows the language so well. Some of the freinds thought that he might be a draw-back to the policy we are trying to establish here viz.,that of self support and a proper appreciation on the part of the people of their responsibility in the work. Of course all I know of Mr Allen is from his letters that have come to me f from him and what I have seen in other letters. It now appears that there were only three votes against his coming back among the votes cast but these three were considered enough. Well perhaps we can wait till the Spring when we may hear again from Mr Allen regarding the points raised by the three who voted in the negative. Just now we are preparing for the opening of school by putting in fuel and having repairs done and this has kept us busy thro the vacation days. We plan as a family to go the coast to bring back our two ladies who have been to Constantinople for the Summer. This will be a little outing for us and may prove a benefit to our little one who finds the process of teething in warm weather

Marsoon Turkey August 10th. 1901.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.

Congregational House Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith:-

I am sending by to-day's post the two reports as
usual of the work of the Marsoon station. A copy of Miss Lord's
already gone to the Woman's Board of the Interior at Chicago. I
indeed sorry that they are so late yet hope they will
reach you before the close of the year.

It seems too bad that Mr Herbert Allen could not have come on
as he knows the language so well. Some of the friends thought
he might be a draw-back to the policy we are trying to establish
here viz., that of self support and a proper appreciation on the
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our two ladies who have been to Constantinople for the Summer.
This will be a little outing for us and may prove a benefit to
the little one who finds the process of teething in warm weather

any thing but pleasant. But we are thankful that tho' we remained in the city we have are good health. I expect to be in school this winter as last, but the first six weeks of the school year will see me visiting two of our out-stations both in the opposite directions. I did not mention in the report that at the graduation we very nearly had an incident that might have cast a little slur upon our flag. The wall behind the platform had the stara and stripes o nit and a very officious offical wished to interfer and to have it pulled down. We were spared that humiliation by the energetic action of Mr. Ojalvo the vice-consul here just now acting as consul. It is to be regretted that we have no Turkish flag or else both would have been displayed at the same time. The Governor general has not referred to the matter again. It happened to be an under secretary and an Armenian at that who tried to have the flag taken down. Next time we will try to have both flags on the wall.

We are on friendly terms with the Government here and Mr. Ojalvo suceeds in many things where others have failed.

Greetings from our reduced circle .

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Rec'd Aug. 30.

Erzroom Turkey Nv. 16th. 1901.

Dear friends:-

You will be waiting from now on for news from this city. And first of all we are glad to report that as a circle we are all well. But there is another item in regard to the circle. On the 6th. inst a little boy came to our home circle. His name is to be Robert Ellis Stapleton. Both Ellis and his mother are doing finely for the latter is sitting up with us now. We thought we would try and do without a doctor that is calling one from Van or Mardin, not that we feel any faith in the doctors here, so I acted as doctor and nurse and no one else was near. Every thing went well and by the fourth day the mother was sitting at the table with us. No bad results have come from it and so we have a big thing for which to give thanks on the 28th. inst.

Now as to the earthquake and the damage done by it. The first shock we felt two weeks ago as yesterday, but little thought we o f it and for a week we had no more till last Friday the eightthinst. about the same time in the early morning as the preceeding week we had another sharp shock which only woke us, it being after 5 A.M. This was soon followed by a slighter one, but when the third one came about six oclock, the plaster began to fall all around us. I left our chamber to see after our little girl in another room and found her alone and wondering what the shakig was(the little maid had gone to open the door). Upon my return I found that my wife had risen and was about to pick up her two days' old baby. But she returned to her bed and a word of prayer soon brought peace and assurance to us.

The next thing was to see how our friends were faring in the Mission house. I found them or the girls of the Boarding department were very much afraid and therr fear only increased as the day proceeded and the shocks continued. The people of the street were sitting on the pavements trying to keep warm with what clothing they could get and soon they were busy engaged in putting up tents and huts and now it is a sight to see the various shanties that have gone up all over the city. All our tents were soon called into service but we Stapletons have not left the house but have come to the lower story where there is a good strong room and there we are very comfortable. I wish this could be said of all the people but nearly all the rest are in tents. Even the consular circle are in tents, altho' Mr. Lamb the English consul has kept to the house quite a good deal and is now returning. Our boys and girls the first night sapt down stairs but a shock at ten oclock sent them into the streets, where by midnight some sort of tents were made ready for them. When I tell you that snow was already on the ground you will realize what being in tents means. Our Miss Lord and Miss Bushnell went out with the girls so as to be near them, where they remained for seven nights and last night was their first one in the house again. Shocks have continued with more or less frequency up till this morning and since this letter was begun a shock came which was enough to make the people fear to return to their homes. The homes of many are so damaged that they cannot return tothem and so the authorities have been putting up shanties for the poor but how they will be able to remain there for the winter is more than I know. It is to be feared that much sickness will result from this exposure to the weather.

As to damage to the Mission property, the Boys' school has suffered the most so that next Spring it is feared half of the two long walls will have to come down to make them safe. They have seperated from the roof by a hand's breadth. Fortunately the roof was not resting upon these side walls and as far as is to be seen now

the roof has not been injured, except a little weakening from gap at the side. But we will try to cover these for the winte and so keep that part of the roof ~~so as to keep it~~ from falli the partition walls in all the buildings were much shaken and plaster has fallen from them all in places. One of the outside to the school has been cracked a little but not enough, if we no more shocks, to cause alarm. The upper house as well as the house has lost a few chimneys and the plaster from the partit walls. You will see the advantage of having good substantial ings in a city like this. We hope that the shocks are past bu cannot say as yet.

There is hardly a house in town that is not injured and many people turn to us for shelter so you see we have some work u hands. The Gregorian church has been very much damaged, having two big cracks in the facade of the building and several in the inside the edifice. The Latin church has also received a sim damage, and report has it that the Greek church is also nee repairs. A part of the citadel wall has fallen. The governme offices are in wooden huts where I saw the Vali yesterday. al mosques have been much damaged and I notice most of the o if not all are in tents. Our church being small and low h been injured so much. Our consul is on his way to this place his mother and has reached Trebizond by this. It is winter w makes it hard to get away from the city and increases the di in the city. Not that we are thinking of leaving but some wo if it were possible.

Thro' the entire time Mrs Stapleton has been con valesc it is with greatful hearts we report her doing exceptional l and the seventh found her up. Indeed we thank our heavenly Fa that He has preserved us so thro the entire week and has giv rest and peace. Surely we can repeat the 91st Psalm and say been true.

Dear Dr. Smith:-

So busy has this disturbance made u I have not had time to write the report that I wished to wri above letter is a copy of letters I am sending tothe other s who have enquired by telegram as to our welfare and I though copy might give you an idea of our welfare. The matter o f r ing the Boys' school I fear can not wait till a Mission meet could be called, for the wall must come down in the early Spr fall down . I will call several master masons to see it and consensus of opinion regarding it. I hope to hear that we ma rebuild at once which will mean a great expense. I do not kn these buildings are insured as they use to be, but this is t time when we need the insurace money . Perhaps the surplus has been accruing from our rents which has been return to Mr. may be available for this use.

Since my last letter, I fear it is, there is need to report a to Trebizond to bring back our ladies who were in Cple this s a short tour into the Erzingan field, and one also into, the K nous field from which the Lord brought us back safely for the were just infested with robbers. Some of these we met on one our trips but the Lord restrain ed their hearts.

Will try and write more in regard to these matters when become somewhat settled again, Greetings from us all to you a the friends at the rooms, I hope to hear the response to our "Rise up and repair".

Fraternally yours

Robert W. Sta

JAN 15 1902

Erzroom Turkey December I4th. I90I.

Dear Dr. Smith:-

It is some weeks since I wrote you about our welfare, and there is very little to add in regard to it. The shocks continue tho' slight ones until to-day, we had another heavy one, tho' the only harm I think ~~that~~ it did was to frighten the people again, and they were ready to flee their homes. Almost every day we feel slight shocks, and this is the thirty-sixth day since we had the first heavy one that did so much damage.

As to our buildings the large missionary house has received but little damage, but ~~such as~~ must be repaired in the Spring such as the plastering of the rooms where the walls are bare, the rebuiding of chimneys, and the roof ~~so fixed as~~ so as to keep the rain out. The latter received no direct damage from the earthquakes, but these prevented it from being thoroughly taken care of during those days and we had snow and rain which so damaged it as to make it leak all over. I think as far as I can see now that two hundred dollars will repair the loss on that building. But not so on the girls' school. Of course this building was old and perhaps suffered more on that account. At any rate, the upper story was condemned by the authorities and it was considered best to pull it down for the safety of all. It seems to us that some insurance money ought to be claimed for this building. Its valuation outside of the two, rooms left standing is six-hundred liras or $2640.00. Of course taking down the upper story makes the lower story of no use whatever and we are removing

that as well. The boys' school might be considered to have received the most damage . This building stands alone, is quite large and is not bound from side to side as it seems to me so large a building should be. Just what it will take to repair it I do not know, but it may be that we will have to take the roof off and the side walls down to the first story. I understand from Mr. Peet that these buildings are insured , he says with the Board. Then in regard to these much needed repairs , what are the steps, as far as the Board is considered, to get the things started. That it ought to be done as soon as Spring opens goes without saying. In fact the authorities have said that the wall ought to be taken down now. But I fear that will be impossible till Spring.

We do indeed thank God that he has kept us thro' it all, for altho' a few of the children in the orphanage have been sick, yet so far all has gone well. We have ~~indeed~~ had the peace which passeth all worldly understanding ~~thro' it all~~. Our little son does not seem to have suffered from his advent during such a rough time. He is doing finely while our good doctor is again able to look after the sick. During this month she has been called up to the home of the Governor's to consult with others in regard to the son of the later. But each time she was opposed by the attending doctor who did not understand the latest treatment, while the second time, she was confronted by four of the city doctors who thought it not best to let her try for the same reason that the first doctor had. The little fellow died this week after all that the four could do and did for him.

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I was sorry to have to refuse to endorse a letter from this church appealling for funds to rebuild their church. I did it because it seemed to us, they were using the earthquake in a way not warrented by the facts. The strusture has received some damage but not what is beyond their ability to repair, and to use the earthquake merely to gain sympathy seemed to me to be doing wrong. Of course they do not see it in this light and are therefore not pleased with my attitude. I know that some have been injured financially by the shocks of earthquake and I tell them to say so and to be open and honest about it and the Lord will bless them.

Some four weeks ago I was persuaded to send a cable to the Tribune of New York and sent the figures given by the Governor and his commission. These are distrubting bread to the poor every day. If any relief comes from America to me I will look into their methods ere I let it go. How it affects the poor is by the exposure they are subjected to and the extra fuel needed in their present condition. Again, during the first week the market was not open and thus there was the loss of that week's trade with its profit, the other losses making work, such as the poor people do, scarce this winter. Many of the poor families driven out of their homes have gone to the villages but ~~there~~ relief has to follow them as there is no work there for them. We have had to take our cook's family in for the winter and have also given shelter to three others (the wife of our Vice consul her child and maid). It will be a little later when, the worst need will be felt. Then any money coming later will be a great help.

This last two weeks I have been busy, along with other things, on my semi-annual report of accounts which must go to Cple. at once. I will try to get a report for you ere the year has gone and will write a few paragraphs for the Herald for the February number if it will be thought best to publish them. I inclosed a picture or two to show the state of our streets for the past few weeks. A large number of the people have gone back to their homes, yet there are some still remaining in their tents. Our school lost two weeks but we reopened before any others did and some have not reopened yet. Ere this reaches you a New year will be with us. Please to accept of our warmest greetings and best wishes for that season. We were so glad to read that the debt of the Board has been raised and we hope and pray that this year will see a much larger work abroad with a corresponding, interest and blessing at home.

We all unite in greetings to our friends at the Rooms.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Mapleton, Iowa, Dec. 14, 1901

Editor Herald

Dear Sir:

This last two weeks I have been busy along with other things, on my semi-annual report of accounts which must go to Ogle, at once. I will try to get a report for you ere the year has gone and will write a few paragraphs for the Herald for the January number if it will be thought best to publish them. I inclosed a picture or two to show the state of our streets for the past few weeks. A large number of the people have gone back to their homes, yet there are some still remaining in their tents. Our school lost two weeks but we reopened before any others did and some have not reopened yet. This reaches you a New year will be with us. Please to accept our warmest greetings and best wishes for that season. We were glad to read that the debt of the Board has been raised and we do and pray that this year will see a much larger work carried with corresponding interest and blessing at home.

We all write in greetings to our friends at the Home.

Fraternally yours

Orlando A. Mapleton

FEB 3 1902

Erzroom Turkey January 11th. 1902.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

A letter from Dr. Smith yesterday told of your near arrival home and we from this far off land would add our word of welcome to you and Mrs Barton. I do not know whether my letters to the rooms will give you a full view of our condition here. We are indeed thankful to our heavenly Father that we are all in good health as a New Year begins and that the earthquake has done no harm to us. Our little boy Ellis who came at about the same time, two days before, was not affected by the shocks at all and that we were not obliged to go out of the house into tents has given us great cause for thankfulness. New that the event has past the most damage seems to have been to the houses not one of which in the whole city escaped. But the fear of this people at the time magnified things, and hence the reports. That the city was in tents is a fact for I do not know of another family that remained in their home besides ourselves. Oh that this visitation would only stir this people to seek the Lord with all their hearts as one remarked in one of our prayer meetings this week.

Our church finds itself in an embarrassing position for at the time of the earthquake, as said before, their fear led them to report great need. New that the money has come from friends throut this country they are at a loss to whom to give it. A desire they have makes it harder for them, for they have a wish to

put up a new church building and the thought is with them to follow the report example of the Gregorians and keep all money coming to them for this purpose. In our own church there are but two families who have suffered from the earthquake and will need help. The relief which has been given by the authorities has been to the poor whether made so by the calamity or not. But the money that has come is for earthquake sufferers. One thing in the letter accompanying the money is what troubles them and that is, the senders say, "the money is for the sufferers irrespective of creeds." Now if the church or the committee desire to find out those suffering from the earthquake they would soon have places for their money. I was placed on the committee by the friends in Ople, and have given my opinion about the money so that they know where I stand and some are opposed to the position.

In regard to our buildings, I have written Dr. Smith but he writes that he will leave the question until your return, so near home are you. The old girls' school building was so damaged by the shocks that the chief engineer reports that the greter part should come down at once and so we have pulled them down and have prepared the ground for rebuilding in the Spring. We are preparing to put up two dwellings adjoining each other so that at some future time they can be easily connected and used if need be for educational purposes; but at first we families will live in them, for the first as the school is occupying the Mission House.

It seems thatpermission for the these two houses can be had here and if so this will stop the delay. Just now we are living in a rented house which for the time being belongs to our orphanage. The chief engineer is helping us in the matter of plans which have to be presented when we ask for permission here. We were rejoiced to hear by telegrama that the Mission had voted to ask the Prudential committee for an extra $2000.00 to put with the $2000.00 the W.B.M.I. voted two years ago. It would seem as the' it would be sufficient if not perhaps a claim from the insurance fund might be made to help out. We hope to hear soon from you on this subject. That there will be need for aid from this fund for the boys' school this Summer and also from or for the Mission House has been shown in previous letters.

We were able to make short tours this Fall in to two portions of our field. From our orphanage have gone two teachers into two of our villages school and the letters that come from that reigon show the good work they are doing. This is the Khanoos church and into this reigon for this winter has gone an ordained paster from another field with the view of rousing the churches into a deeper spiritual life. In fact the churches are in need of being reorganized so far astray have the members gone. There was one who had been a worker for many years who was not a church member and we received him into fellowship . The church in Erzingan we found smaller than last year but in better working order as there had been removed from its lists

those members who had lost fellowship with them thro' their bad living. These same members had been very troublesome and a hindrance to the work. We are trying to stir up more ~~inte~~ interest in the Sunday school work in all our churches with good results. The teachers who go out from here take up this work well and also the Christian Endeavor work in some instances.

We had an oppertunity of talking with a man who had been thro the reigon where our churches in Russia are and altho' he favored neither side he gave us such an account as led us to feel that our step in suspending The evangelist was the right thing. This Bar. Zorab a man of means was so engaged in outside business that every Summer he has to spend many Sundays looking after this work. This I felt must be the case as I read from his letters. The other worker is poor and if unpopular there, this is the reason. He wishes to leave for Fresno but no permission is given. Furthermore this Spring the authorities there are to press the Armenians into becoming subjects of that country which may mean a scattering of the people all over the country: This week here we have observed the Week of Prayer with a special service for the children at noon. This has been a great help I believe to all.

Greetings to, you from our circle here. Hoping to hear from you soon as regards the repairing the Boys' school this coming Spring and about the building in place of the girls' old school, I remain Fraternally yours

Robert Stapleton

Fresno, Cal. Jan. 11, 1902

37.
FEB 10 1902
MAR 10 1902

Erzroom Turkey January 18th. 1902.

Dear Dr. Barton :-

Your first letter came to us yesterday and we were very pleased to hear that you have returned safely and that Mrs Barton has been benefited by the entire trip. Again we would say welcome home to you and yours. The appropriations have come to hand and we start on this new year's work with hope and trust for a good result. Last Saturday's post carried a letter from here for you in which mention was made to some extent of the work as it is just now. I do not know whether all our letters reach the Rooms. It is certain that all letters from the States do not reach us and especially this last six months has this seemed to be the case. We receive one Congregationalist in three. It may be that such paragraphs as the one in the Congregationalist for Dec. 21st. page 992 , "Dread of an -------a massacre" has some thing to do with it and again it may be that it is the general rule of this land.

Just now we are enjoying the vacation season of the schools which brings a rest in a change of work for a short time. The prayer meetings, begun last week in the "Week of Prayer", have been continued thro' this week in the church here. But as Mr Willard remarked when here, there seems to be a mask or something thro' which it is almost impossible to penetrate and the meetings have lacked any visible results on the spiritual side.

The pastor is an earnest Christian worker but his work seems in vain as far as an increase of members or conversions are seen. You doubtless recall Pompish Nazalee who graduated from Harpe ot some time ago and who taught in our school and is now the matron of our orphanage. She is perhaps the best educated woman inour church and speaks with great ability. Well she brought a storm on her the other day when she spoke in the general meeting . The opposition came from some of the most ignorant in the church yet who held a place among the brethern. She did not desist but spoke another time when she felt moved to do so. She is talking of coming to Boston to be with her boys and we shall greatly miss her in the work.

Our ladies were in Cple. this past Summer and for a week ran down to Smyrna where they visited Mr and Mrs Mc. Naughton. Mr. Mc. Naughton was here for a winter some time near to the event and helped in the relief work of this place. In conversation with Miss Lord Mrs Mc. Naughton gave Miss Lord to understand that they would like to work in this field as they thought that place, Smyrna, overmanned when compared with other stations and the work of the Interior is more to their taste. Upon the strength of this, last week I wrote Mr. Mc. Naughton asking how he felt now about coming here and also asked if I might present his name to the Mission. I forget to add this to my letter of last week althe' it was down on the memorandum. I think that the W.T.M. is not under your care so if this matter could be held to ourselves until we hear from him again except as to finding out the facts of the case.

Miss Lord knew him while she was in that station and is of the opinion that if he came here, we as a station would work very well together.

Just before you left for India you wrote about Mr. Allen and we took up the question and placed it before the mission but the Harpoot friends, who knew so well, thought he would not suit here althe' we were ready to try it. From the results it seemed to us that Mr. Allen would not now accept a call as he feels that he is unfairly dealt with in the matter. We do, not enter into that discussion one way or the other but feel that another family ought to come here and if Mr. Mc. Naughton is ready to come and the way is clear it seems to us a very good plan. But we do not know all the circumstances and so refer to you who can get at the facts It was on my teugue to say we are all well and it would be nearly true for we are well now, althe' one of our number has been confined to her room with a severe cold but is now better.

Might we ask what the idea of the Board is regarding having doctors at each station? Is the revenue brought in by this work held as an inducement or does it pay financially. We have often felt that if there was one here like Dr. Ussher at Van a great good might be done. Not only in the city but in the villages. Here from two of our villages we have reports of twenty and fifty children dying of diptheria and no one there able to do anything to stop it We had one in mind at one time but fear he may have be accepted by another board.

With greetings to you from our circle

Fraternally Yours Robt. S. Stapleton

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Tenderly your Sist. A. Chapelow

Erzingan, Jan. 16, 1902

MAR 3 1902

Erzroom Turkey Feb. IIth. 1902.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

I have kept this letter for a week in order to get the news which it comes to give, and which will be a surprise to some. It is that we have permission to put up two houses on the ground which was formerly used for the Girls' school. In order to do this we had to remove from the books here all mention of it as being used as a school . The permit we had for a school made it possible for the school to be transferred to another place which is the Upper house. If it is thought best again to do this and re transfer, the thing is possible. But we do not mention that openly and the new buildings will be used as a dwelling for some time and the future will take care of itself. For the success in this matter we are greatly indebted to our Vice-consul Mr Ojalvo. He is the most capable interpreter here along this line of work and at times I wish he were at the Embassy instead of the one there.

Now the next thing is the money. The W.B.M.I. two years ago voted two thousand dollars for this purpose and the ladies have petitioned for two-thousand five hundred more which with the amount on hand will make six thousand. If there is any insurance to be had the entire amount say eight thousand(for it seems to us that that amount of insurance would be about the figure---$2000.00 for those buildings) then we could put up the buildings and secure the only remaining corner on this lot as I once wrote you. The occupant is a man from Keghi and is a bad man and it is not his fault that we have not failed in this our attempt to get the permit. He now wishes

es to sell

to sell his property and by this means we would lose a troublesome neighbor. This is what he has wished ever since he bought the house two years ago. But his idea of making money out of it has been set aside by our taking our building down which adjoins his.

The plans we hope to send by this next post or next Tuesday as a change has to be made in one place because the city demand so much on one of the alleys to widen it enough to make it a thoro'fare.

Now such is our condition that we must build this year. I suspose that remains with the W.B.M.I. The Mission has passed the vote for the extra $2500.00. We are making the stone ready and the windows out of wood of the old building so that nothing will hinder the work when the weather opens up for the work on the ground to begin.

In this work we are not going beyond the money we have in hand but fear the work will have to stop soon if we do not get word from Chicago. Yet we understand that since the $2000.00 was voted two years ago it is at our order now. At any rate we shall work upon this supposition.

There is to be a great deal of building here this year and natural ly prices will be higher than usual but we are having the prepara- tion done now at less cost than it will take later on.

Will you be kind enough to send this letter on to Chicago if you think it worth while. We are praying for the word "rise up and build" ing) then we could put up the buildings and secure the only re- ism will take a cablegram to reach us in good time for the opening up of things. Greetings from us all to you and Mrs Barton.

Fraternally yours.

Robt. S. Stapleton

Feb 11 1902

MAR 3 1902

Erzroom Turkey Feb. 11th. 1902.

MAR 10 1902

Dear Dr. Bartens:-

Some time ago I wrote you about writing to Mr Mc. Naughten of the Smyrna field in regard to his considering an invitation to this field if our Mission should send him one. This was done on the strength of what Miss Lord heard in a conversation with Mrs. Mc. Naughton, also on the information that he knew Armenian. In his reply to-day he informs me that he would have to study Armenian were he to come here. He further asks for information as to the field but would give no promise as to whether he would consider the question .In fact he somewhat gives the other side that he would not .

Nothing further than this has been done and we await your reply to my last letter on this subject. It is discouraging that we cannot have a colleague here. I believe there are one or two in the Class which graduates this year from Chicago Seminary who are looking forward to the Mission field. Shall I write to them suggesting this field? One Arthur Moore has had some experience as a pastor, has a nice record I think both in School and I was going to, say Seminary but it must be confessed that I am not acquainted with his record there Where is our friend Stutson who two years entered the field of Mexico? Is he still there? I have not seen his name in any of the lists of Missionaries that have come to my hand. We have not had the Board Almanac this year.

With kind regards to all I remain

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

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Fraternally yours.

Robt. S. Stapleton

Engaging

Feb 11 1902

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MAR 3 1902
MAR 10 1902

Erzroom Turkey Feb. 11th. 1902.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Some time ago I wrote you about writing to Mr Mc. Naughton of the Smyrna field in regard to his considering an invitation to this field if our Mission should send him one. This was done on the strength of what Miss Lord heard in a conversation with Mrs. Mc. Naughton, also on the information that he knew Armenian. In his reply to-day he informs me that he would have to study Armenian were he to come here. He further asks for information as to the field but would give no promise as to whether he would consider the question .In fact he somewhat gives the other side that he would not .

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With kind regards to all I remain

fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Erzroom, Turk. 11/1902

Erzroom Turkey Feb. 11th. 1902.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Some time ago I wrote you about writing to Mr Mc. Naughton of the Burrus field in regard to his considering an invitation to this field if our Mission should send him one. This was done on the strength of what Miss Lord heard in a conversation with Mrs. Mc. Naughton, also on the information that he knew Armenian. In his reply to-day he informs me that he would have to study Armenian were he to come here. He further asks for information as to the field but would give no promise as to whether he would consider the question. In fact he somewhat gives the other side that he would not.

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With kind regards to all I remain

Fraternally yours

MAR 21 1902
MAY 29 1902

Erzroom Turkey Feb 19th, 1902.

Dear Dr. Barton:- Up to this date the only letter from you is the one announcing your return. Doubtless the accumulation of letters with other business has kept you busy and will do so for some time to come. But there is one thing which we must know soon and that is inregard to the Boys' school for its condition will not permit of much longer delay before we begin to tear the upper walls down in order to secure us, safety in the school yard. Yesterday I was examining it again and saw that the wall had gone out-ward a little more and had let ~~us~~ some stones down into the upper room which at first were held between the wall and roof. The upper rooms are not occupied except as some carpenters are using them as work-shops in preparing the window frames for the new building or dwellings as I wrote last week. Doubtless the extra spreading is due to the more recent shocks which however are less severe and without damage, save where houses are already damaged. Shocks do continue according to a sufficient number of witnesses altho' for my part I do not feel them. Almost every day some number of people report them. I hope you have received all our letter altho' we have cause to doubt that some never come to their destination. As to the suffering from earthquakes, there has been a great deal of sickness in the city and to meet this the government has divided the city into districts so that the poor of each district might be seen by the doctors at the expense of the authorities. But many of these sick needed bread as much as medicine and it was hard to meet all these cases. In the Spring time the repairing of houses will call for some out-side help and the general idea is to keep what money is coming for that time. The city authorities stopped giving bread at the new year for the markets were all opened agin and as a direct result of earthquakes there was very little need of bread money, after the markets were opened. In the coldest weather small amounts of fuel were given to the same poor. But that is now stopped as the

Erzroom, Feb 11, 1902

weather is milder now. This mildness which makes the streets very muddy and filthy doubtless increases the sickness thro'out the city. The protestants have received quite a little money for relief from friends in this land and also from America. Fresno Cal. sent about $200.00 Few among their number own their houses and as the greatest distress will be when these are to be repaired there will be little need of help among this people. The Turks and Armenians (Gregorians) are great sufferers along this line.

This week the worker who is with the Pasin church this winter gave me a visit and reports good things there, especially in the village where his family are staying. The regular pastor , who for the winter is visiting Khanous has been there for many years and in some way has lost his influence if he ever had any there. This worker found no member out-side of his own family at work. Not even to offer a prayer in public service. This he has been trying to change with great success. Another thing, their giving had no system about it and he has been preaching along the line of proportionate giving with a fair amount of success altho' there are still more to be brought into line. He is working in his native village with a good result. It may be that the change will be made perminent if the interest there under his work increases. This village has been the center of the work or regarded so because perhaps the pastor lived there. But it will have to give place to another village an hour away. Here a new convert was put a year last fall and he is doing a splendid work and adding to his congregation. This is Komatsor. This village have doubled their giving this last year. When I took up the work they were not giving any thing for their worker who lived in the village but to the pastor from the other village they gave three or more liras. This year they have given ten liras to the two combined. And other villages are inviting the worker to visit them . This is a hopeful sign and we pray that the Spirit may work mightily upon the hearts of this entire people.

The visitoring workers in Khanous report some good work there altho' there is yet a good deal to be done as they have been without a pastor for so long a time. We found those who were of the congregation nursing a quarrel that ought to have stopped twenty years ago. To meet it does not seem best ~~to me~~ to encourage them by listening to them and trying to bring about a peace according to their method, which means nothing but putting it aside for a more convenient season to bring it out again. They llove too well this making up until it seems as tho' they made the troubles with the making up time in view.

From the Russian field I had a letter by the hand of Zorab Sarkisian. He speaks of writing you because he has been suspended and because I write to and support the one with whom he has animositie for so long. As I wrote before I firmly believe this man is working for the Swedish missionaries of Tiflis besides being a man that to us seems hardly the man who is fit to, carry on the work there. It has been impossible to get a man to go there to visit. Those, who go over there, go by stealth and we cannot afford to run the risk of having a man caught who would turn on us and say that we had sent him. The one who did bring us a report from there on his own account, not being interested in the work at all, only confirmed us in the opinion we had gained about the workers there. This time he gives some figures of membership as gained by him since he was ordained as he was a year ago last December. I do not recall that you made any comment on the action we had taken in suspending him or upon the ordination that he accomplished for himself and a brother who was to be a deacon. But you will hear from him and if you wish I can send you his entire correspondance since I came here. He is quite a writer and some say a speaker. Yet they say again that if he had not the money he would not have the seeming influence that he has. Those who have been over there speak of the low state of Christian life seen on every hand.

I do not know if I reported the trouble we have been having with a neighbor to the girls' school. But it occurs to me that you have been advised of it. Our consul thought the matter grave enough to bring the man to court and a verdict was given in default of his non-appearance of twenty-four hours and a small fine. He put in an objection to this, mentioning the most trivial things why the verdict should not be given and false-hoods were very numerous in it. As a result a second trial occurred and the sentence was increased to five days imprisonment with the same money fine. He has appealed to this but our consul as the complainant means to push the case or he feels as we do that there will be no living with the man as neighbor. If I jhave not written about it before I will write more fully for you later on. He has threatened to stop our building or spend/ing/ his fortune in the attempt. This is the result of our not buying his house which adjoins the school at the figure which he sets which is a gain of $500.00. He bought it two years ago and with the intention of making this gain on us.

Our health report is fairly good. The little ones are doing nicely Did I send you the two pictures that were taken at the time of the earthquake showing the tents in the streets?, If not They can be sent. Greetings from our entire circle to you and Mrs Barton.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Engroom, Okla. 1?, 1902

I do not know if I reported the trouble we have been having with a neighbor to the girls' school. But it occurs to me that you have been advised of it. Our counsel thought the matter grave enough to bring the man to court and a verdict was given in default of his non-appearance of twenty-four hours and a small fine. He put in an objection to this mentioning the most trivial things why the verdict should not be given and false-hoods were very numerous in it. As a result a second trial occurred and the sentence was increased to five days imprisonment with the same money fine. He has appealed to this but our counsel as the complainant means to push the case or he thinks as we do that there will be no living with the man as neighbor. If I have not written about it before I will write more fully for you later on. He has threatened to stop our building or spending his fortune in the attempt. This is the result of our not buying his house which adjoins the school at the figure which he sets which is a gain of $800.00. He bought it two years ago and with the intention of making this gain on us.

Our health report is fairly good. The little ones are doing nicely Did I send you the two pictures that were taken at the time of the earthquake showing the tents in the street? If not They can be sent. Greetings from our entire circle to you and Mrs Barton.

Sincerely yours

Geo. A. Stapleton

MAR 31 1902

Erzroom Turkey March 7th. 1902.

MAY 29 1902

Dear Dr Barton:-

Your letter, asking for details in regarded to the insurance needed, came to hand last general post. It is a very hard matter just now to say how much damage has been done for without doubt the true extent will not be known until we begin to pull down in the preparation to rebuild, when the full extent will be seen. Last week we studied over the matter and got what help from outside we could. The result we sent the round of the Mission with a vote that the amount necessary for the repairs be granted us by the Prudential committee from the insurance fund. For the Upper house we gave the items as follows. Chimneys to be rebuilt, the roof walls on two sides of roof to be rebuilt, the roof itsself to be refixed, so as to help it to keep the water from the rooms below, the entire upper part of the house to be replastered , not merely whitewashed or what they call plastering here but replastered from the very beginning and the arch to the front door to be reset. For this it is necessary some $500.00.

For the boys school, the entire wall all round needs to be taken down from two to three metres and that means that the roof comes off. In rebuilding we would like to lessen the wall as far as 1½ metre height is concerned. The upper part and much of the lower story needs to be replastered and some of the wall down to the lower story strengthened. For these we are asking permission from the authorities and we hope to get it. As I said before it is hard to say how much will be needed for this work and out-side friends put the figure at $3080.00 or 700.00 Lt.

The old girls' school was damaged so that, when we pulled that down which at first appeared the most damaged, the other part we found had to come down also. The entire building was estimated at 880.00 Lt. (seven-hundred eighty liras) but the wood and stone was estimated at $1432.00 which would leave $2000.00 which amount we think

will be needed to take or to make up for the loss of those parts which we had planned at first to leave and use but which the earth quake compelled us to pull down. That is the vote sent the round of the Mission was for money to put up a part of the front and a wing and our plan was to let the rest do for the present but now the entire having to be pulled down the entire plans had to be changed and the $2000.00 is needed to make up the extra. We have been delayed in the plans of the house as the engineer who was to give us them has failed us and so we are doing them ourselves and it is slow work but I think they will be all the better for going slow. Soon I hope to send you a copy of them all. Our Vice-consul is aiding us very much in his spare time which is great in amount. It may be said in return for our sheltering his family this winter. It seems to us as we have worked over these plans and estimates that the work can be done for the amounted stated with the insurance given. As I wrote the Mission the repairs on the boys' school very likely will be started ere this vote i,e, the vote we sent to them reutrns to us with the result. This we may be compelled to do so as to protect the building from further damage when the heavy Spring rains come.

There may be more to say of the work as the plans are to be sent. Since my last letter to you a brighter report has come from the Russian field. The pastor there, who lives in the same village with the evangelist, has written me of the pledge of the church in regard to his salary and their request for their pastor to be ordained. I wrote and told them several times during the past two years what we expected of a church that asked that their pastor should be ordained. They seem to have become united in the wish expressed for the ordination . The pastor has sent me his statement of belief which he read before the church and after studying it over I wish send it on to the friends of the Persian Mission to which place the pastor and people can go while they cannot come here. This was their suggestion and it seems to us to be a good one.

I might add that the request for this man to be ordained comes not only from the village in which the pastor has been living but from the surrounding villages giving as it were their opinion of the ordination of the other man whose case I cited im my last letter to you.

How the new and rigorous manner the Russian Government is dealing with these Armenians in their territory will affect the work is yet to be seen. The pastor does not say much if anything about it. In Karakalla where there was what was considered the best work in that section, the people are seeking to find a way out of the country but do not desire to come back here. At this place is a man who has been in the Bitlis field but who according to Mr Cole does not have a very good record. He has asked me for aid or work but when I wrote Mr. Cole he said that it was the rule that a man who had been at work in one station should not be engaged as a worker in another until his record at the last place had been set right. Another man in a similar plight is in one of our Khanous villages and in hard circumstances. It is hard just to know what to do in these cases. For altho' we are needing workers and these men are at work and would be accepted by the people but to engage them would be to show discourtesy to Mr. Cole to say nothing about throwing or casting reflections upon his judgement. At last he has been so entreated by the friends that he has written if we can help them from a side fund, not as a regular worker, it might help matters. But if there is any good reason why these men should not be employed and aided by funds of the Board then to aid them in the work from side funds would not be right. I feel like taking this view of the cases. As these two men have been with these villages for some time if the people will still endorse them and do their share toward the salaries of these same, then perhaps we can take them as workers. One of these has been in the village for more than a year

One whom I have met was in a very hard place in the Bitlis field and I know has been imprisoned there and was threatened with simi lar treatment and so left the place without giving notice. The other I have not seen but the brethern in the field wrote for him. More are looking to the Land of the West and this Summer you may meet there in Boston Pompish Nazaloo who was in Harpoot at one time. Our High school teacher (for girls) is planning to come also and thus the workers go one by one.

This leaves our circle in good health and brings with it Easter tidings for you. I enclose for you the picture of our Little "Snow ball" as she is named among the friends. She is not two yet but is more than two in her developement. Now she is strong and healthy while the little fellow is slowly growing with a set back now and then. Greetings to you and Mrs Barton trusting this finds you all well.

Fraternally yours.

Robert S. Stapleton

Erzroom, March 15 1902

APR 21 1902

MAY 29 1902

Erzroom Turkey March 25th, 1902:-

Dear Dr. Barton:-

I do not think there is a letter from you that is left unanswered. Again we have to report some progress and that is, we have secured from the local authorities here the permission to repair the Boys' school. At first, it was feared that the matter would be referred to Cple. But we did not call to the attention of the Governor General that the building we wished to repair was the one in which the Boys' school was held, that is in an offical way by referring to the building in our request. We merely stated that the building on lot so and so we desired to repair. All of these permits are gained without paying a single para of money as a bacshesh to any one. We always approach the government thro' our consul, altho' we had a warning that he could not do as much as the brethern. But this last statement is being proved false by experience.

I do not just remember if I wrote you of the vote we have sent the round of the Mission in regard to the insurance. In it, I alluded to what we thought necessary to be done and the money required to do it. In substance it was as follows. For the Upper House, the entire lot of chimneys need to be rebuilt, the roof strengthened, its two side walls rebuilt, the upper rooms of the house to be replastered and some little work outside. We are trying to safe the roof by seeing that careful attention ~~being~~ paid to it. But since the earthquake it seems to have leaked more and more. For this, it is thought that $500.00 will be necessary. This is an increase to what we wrote in December or January but since then we have noticed more damage and this is much.

For the boys' school where the walls have sprung apart from the roof, the walls must be taken down for about the three metres all round, the roof taken off, the chimneys rebuilt and some I fear from the very grond floor. The lower story will need a great deal o

Robert A. Stapleton

plastering . In taking down the wall there will be some waste of wood around the windows and ceiling for so fast are these nailed, that it is impossible to take the wood down so as to be able to use it again in the same place or for the same thing. Our consul and others thought that the expense of repairs might be at least I/3 the original cost so we put it, that is, the amount needed for repairs at $3080.00 or 700 liras. For the girls school which we had to pull down we are asking $2000.00 for the earthquake caused us to, pull down that which we had expected to use for then time being, until at least we were able to rebuild all the structure and the vote last year which came to your hands had that plan in mind. But as we had to pull the entire down, the need for a larger structure is immediately felt and this $2000.00 insurance asked for, will go to meet that need. I hope the vote will reach you soon and we may hear from you.

We had a very pleasing letter from one of our teachers in Khanoos. He has been in our orphanage for three or more years and this year he went out to teach in one of our schools. He seems to fit in the place very well even tho' he was a Gregorian. And now his latest desire is to preach the gospel story. Thus the truth shown ~~amid~~ in what seemed at the time doubtful soil is bearing the real fruit. We have others in training and we pray for like result. We do not preach Protestanism to them, but only the simple truth as it is In Jesus Christ.

The Russian consul of this place read the item ~~by~~ on the editoral page of the Herald of the March number, in which he speaks of the Empire of Russia with the prohibition of desenting from the orthodox church. It caused a smile on the faces of the rest of the company who knew about the article. I was inocent as I had ~~that~~ read not the item. But I must close for this post. We are well and may so send greetings to you and Mrs Barton.

Fraternally yours Robert S. Stapleton

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Personally yours

Robert M. Stapleton

Erzroom, Mch 25, 1902

APR 21 1902

Erzroom Turkey March 28th. 1902.

Dear Mr. Peet:-

Your request for estimates as to the amount of damage done to the various buildings by the earthquake last November came to hand and herewith I comply with your request.

It is hard to make a very exacting estimate as the full extent of damage is not seen nor can it be seen until the plaster is full off the walls in some places. Then again when the pulling down of the damaged walls begins it will doubtless be found necessary to pull down more than we at first thought.

We have been over the ground with Mr. Leo Bergholz our Consul here and the estimates given are what seem to us both to be necessary for the repairs.

For the Boys' school building 700 liras will be necessary to put it in a condition similar to what it was before the earthquake.

For the Upper house we made the amount II5 liras but this Mr/B/ Bergholz thinks is rather small as we re-examined it lately.

For the old Girls' school property which had to be pulled down entirely we are asking for 455 liras. The amount for which this last building was insured was I think 900 liras altho' its valuation as given in the yearly report of the property was only 780 liras and our estimate was based on that valuation. We thought the wood and stone which can be used will amount to325 liras which leaves the 455 liras as given above.

A vote has or is going the round of the Mission with these estimates asking for their approval . But how they can tell unless they come here and see is a question that remains unsolved.

Mr Bergholz is to add a line or a two to this giving his opinion as to the figures. Fraternally yours

Consulate of the United States,

Erzerum, March 28, 1902.

Dear Mr. Peet,

I have made as thorough an examination of the buildings as possible and believe Mr. Stapleton's estimate of the cost of repairing them very moderate and, if any thing, rather low. By careful expenditure the amounts asked for may do.

Believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

Leo Bergholz

Erzerum, March 28th 1902

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For the old Girls' school property which had to be pulled down entirely we are asking for 495 lires. The amount for which this last building was insured was I think 900 lires altho' its valuation as given in the yearly report of the property was only 780 lires and our estimate was based on that valuation. We thought the wood and stone which can be used will amount to 320 lires which leaves the 495 lires as given above.

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Dear Dr. Barton:-

I am here sending you a copy of a letter to Mr. Peet which contains a note from Mr. Bergholz regarding the items for repairing the damage done by the earthquake. This note was at the request of Mr. peet. According to your letter of some weeks ago, which I have answered, we sent round the vote asking the Mission for its endorsement of these items. But I hardly think that under the circumstances it will pass. Dr. Dewey writes me, by this last post, that it requires 5/6 affirmative votes ere any motion or intersessional vote can pass. Many in the Mission do not vote unless it is something that would be discourteous to another member of the Mission, such as voting for a furlough. But what are we to do in this case for the repairs are imperative? Some may object to the large items yet unless they come here, I do not see how they can tell otherwise about it. I might have secured this note from Mr. Bergholz sooner but it never occurred to me altho I did mention in the vote that Mr. Bergholz had helped in the appraisement.

I see the question is being discussed among the friends at Bitlis and Van about a consul of the United States being located at the former place. Mr. Bergholz suggested it and also gave a line of procedure to follow in their request. This morning the result has come back to him, but in such a manner as to show almost a lack of interest on their part at any rate his suggestions have not been considered at all. As he said this morning, it is left for him to present the arguments in order to push the case but he is not the one in need. He at first suggested that they make a very strong petition to you and so thro' you to the Department at Washington. His jurisdiction does not extend beyond this Vilayet and even if it did he is too far away to be of much effective service. For in this land it often needs the presence of the man to effect anything. This I have seen here many times since coming here.

Robt. S. Wigfield

Bretton Woods, March 29th, 1902

Dear Dr. Barton:-

I am here sending you a copy of a letter to Mr. Peet which contains a note from Mr. Bergholz regarding the items for repairing the damage done by the earthquake. This note was at the request of Mr. Peet. According to your letter of some weeks ago which I have answered we sent round the vote asking the Mission for its endorsement of these items. But I hardly think that under the circumstances it will pass. Dr. Dewey writes me by this last post that it requires 5/6 affirmative votes are any motion or intersessional vote can pass. Many in the Mission do not vote unless it is something that would be discourteous to another member of the Mission such as voting for a furlough. But what are we to do in this case for the repairs are imperative? Some may object to the large items yet unless they come here I do not see how they can tell otherwise about it. I might have secured this note from Mr. Bergholz sooner but it never occurred to me altho I did mention in the vote that Mr. Bergholz had helped in the appraisement. I see the question is been discussed among the friends at Bitlis and Van about a consul of the United States being located at the former place. Mr. Bergholz suggested it and also gave a line of procedure to follow in their request. This morning the result came back to him but in such a manner as to show almost a lack of interest on their part at any rate his suggestions have not been considered at all. As he said this morning it is left for him to present the arguments in order to push the case but he is not the one to do it. He at first suggested that they make a very strong petition to you and so thro' you to the Department at Washington. His jurisdiction does not extend beyond this village and even if it did he is too far away to be of much effective service. For in this land it often needs the presence of the man to effect anything. This I have seen here many times since coming here.

For example, last Summer an Armenian came here from Harpoot who had become a citizen of the United States, but he was here travelling as a Turkish subject. Our Vice-consul asked permission to send him out of the country. This was refused, but the next day he went again with the same request , and again and again he went until he gained the point that he could send him even under escort to the frontier. He (the young man) again went to Harpoot for his wife and got away from there thro' the kind servicew of Dr. Norton. But I do not need to bring up examples for you know this country well.

I do not know whether you can do anything until you hear from Van and Bitlis . But if anything is to be done this year it must be done right away as the appropriations for Consuls are settled for the year in June. It would seem from all accounts that there ought to be some foreign offical there for the sake of the circle and the community. I will write them this next week and urge them to write you direct in the form as suggested by Mr Bergholz. If he wished to use the paper they have sent, I fear it would detract fromtheir petition. And that is what Mr Bergholz means about it showing lack of interest, As tho' paper was scarce with them, again as tho' their need could be expressed in ten lines or less without any definite need expressed. But this is not my work except as I am interested in seeing them with the proper protection.

A light fall of snow again this morning hinders the work on the building but it will not last more than to-day. We hope to start the foundation this coming week altho' we have not heard from Chicago. But if we are to wait till we hear, then there would be no building this year. Last week I wrote youmthat we had gained permission from the authorities to repair the Boys' school. This is good since we feared it might have to go to Cple. Greetings from our circle to you and Mrs Barton.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Graphoons, Nov 29 1902

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Pratomally yours

Rev. A. Tashjian

MAY 9 1902

Erzroom Sunday April 14th. 1902.

MAY 29 1902

Dear Dr. Barnum-

Your favor of the first of last mounth reached me ten days ago and was not only the last from you, but up to date it is the last letter we have received from beyond Trebizond. Thanks for the news as you have received it from Boston or rather Chicago, altho' it was not what the ladies were expecting and they have written in reply to it. As my letters have stated the insuran was expected and is really needed to increase the new building; for the earthquake made us pull the entire building down and now we must have more room than we were expecting when we sent the vote round last year, when, as it was stated, we expected to put up a wing and a part of the front. We have tried to cut down what seemed the least necessary in the parts of the new building and yet I fear the result will be that we shall have to leave a part of the build ing unbuilt which will force the school to rent rooms else where. I know the people in other places think that the amount of money asked for is much. But if they would or could consider the difference in building material with this and other places it would be seen why. Here is one item for example. Our community president has just returned from Marsovan where he told us lime can be had for one piaster a botman. Here we have paid ninety paras and that by contract, while to others they are charging five piasters. When it is known that we shall need ten thousand botmans one can see where $1000.00 has already gone. Wood is correspondingly dear. The beams in which form our lumber come and which we have to saw on the ground has cost us another thousand and yet we have not enough. These we are cutting so as to lessen the expense and plasing the floor-ing more after the manner at home something unknown here. You will see from the two plats sent, the two floors of the two houses. But if we get not the extra two thousand which we were hoping would come from the Interville, the small house will have to be left for some

future time , the foundation having been laid and the windows all made. This work was done for we had the wood and room to let the men work when labor was cheaper than it is just now. You see we have been taking every advantage of the circumstances as we have found them.

In regard to using the barn for a school, we have well considered the questionm both now and when you spoke of it before. But it would take from two until three thousand dollars to fit it for use and then would come some needed changes in the house so that there would be left little to put up even one of the Missionary residences needed when the reinforcements arrive.

We feel confident that to any one knowing the conditions here his verdict would be that we are doing the best we can. Our friend Mr. Ojalvo is doing a great deal to help us and he knows so well the character of this land. Besides giving two lessons in school my time is also given up to the work althe later the repairing of the other buildings will take some of my time.

By working the odd days that we could thro' the winter we are now where no other building party is, that is, our foundation is in and after a week's rest we will proceed with the larger house hoping that ere it is complete, as to its walls, we shall have the word to go on and complete the little house. If we were permitted to finish and rent one of the houses and thus gain a little money to help pay up the amount needed we could make such an arrangement. or lets us finish both the houses, transfer the school back again and rent the big Mission house for a year or two, we could then realize the amount and do it easily. If it were empty now the English consul would be very pleased to have it, now for he is needing such a house.

Our consul the other week received a letter from the Department of State to whom he had reported the matter as to the trouble our neighbor was giving to us and the consulate and the letter assured him

that if satisfaction was not to be obtained here the Porte would have to settle the matter.

We are to have a visit from Mr Cole and Miss Ely who will bring Miss Knapp on this far as she is going to the coast. I am asked to escort her to the coast which thing I can do now but would be unable to do later on. But in her condition which they write is very low she ought to have the best of care or we would have suggested a cavasse from our consulate as Mr Bergholz so very kindly proferred one.

As I said before our Community president has just returned from Marsovan where he has been enbued with the excellent spirit found there. He was called upon by many of the churches there during his seven months stay to give some account of the work the church was doing here and he told us it was a very hard position in which to place him. We are sincerely hoping that his visit may result in the quickening of this church into doing something. Why they should have got into such a state of indolence I do not know. It was so when we came here and no effort put forth has been able to shake them up very much. It may be that we will have to raise up the workers and wait for them to make themselves felt. One on the church committee because he has money has great influence altho' he can neither read nor write and he is one of the opposers to any progress whatever.

To-night we have a meeting to consider again the financial condition and what can be done to relieve the pressure somewhat altho' that straw has been thrashed pretty well before.

Greetings from us all to you and Mrs Barton. Our little boy is improving we think and now every day we take him out riding and from this we expect great things.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

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We are to have a visit from Mr Cole and Miss Ely who will bring Miss Knapp on this far as she is going to the coast. I am asked to escort her to the coast which thing I can do now but would be unable to do later on. But in her condition which they write is very low she ought to have the best of care or we would have suggested a carriage from our consulate as Mr Bergholz so very kindly proferred one.

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Erzroum, Apr. 14, 1902

MAY 9 1902

MAY 29 1902

Erzroom Turkey April 15th. 1902.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Since writing the first part of my letter this week a letter has come from you to Miss Lord. There is nothing needing a special answer but I have added to my letter a drawing of the facade of the larger house. But before we received the former letter we had decided to change this in that instead of having cut stone we have planned to have the large field stone as any building is put up here except in lime. These changes have kept us busy altering the plans until now we have no special plan with the rough stone. What are we to do for the little house which was to be used for the two or three American teachers. Had the land been different that is if we had had the two houses occupying the one corner then the building would have been one and no little house would we be talking about now.

Again with greetings I close.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Brusson Turkey April 18th. 1902.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Since writing the first part of my letter this week a letter has come from you to Miss Lord. There is nothing needing a special answer but I have added to my letter a drawing of the facade of the larger house. But before we received the former letter we had decided to change this in that instead of having out stone we have planned to have the large field stone as any building is put up here except in lime. These changes have kept us busy altering the plans until now we have no special plan with the rough stone. What are we to do for the little house which was to be used for the two or three American teachers. Had the land been different that is if we had had the two houses occupying the one corner then the building would have been one and no little house would we be talking about now.

Again with greetings I close.

Sincerely yours

Geo. A. Stapleton

MAY 13 1902
MAY 29 1902

Erzroom Turkey April 18th. 1902.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

By this post I am sending a later picture of the facade of the larger house we are building just now. As compared with the other it is quite plain but we are looking to the strength of the walls and so of the entire house, and not to the beauty altogether. This morning a postal from Dr. Dewey announced the fact that the Mission had endorsed our request for the Insurance money according to the figures we have sent you. This calls to mind what was written about the Insurance of the girls' school and how this would be needed to make up the loss which came to us during the earthquake. In other words the Mission endorses the request we have made for $8000.00 for the new girls' school. For this, we have been preparing in the way of making the windows ready and already the foundation walls of both large and small houses are laid. If we get but the six thousand, to which the W.B.M.I. is limiting us, then the smaller house will have to wait and the school in the meantime will have to rent rooms else-where. The W.B.M.I. two years ago voted us the $2000.00 of which we have written and now vote to allow us to use $6000.00 which means only an increase on their part of over $400.00 for they look to the Insurance money to make the $6000.00 up. When two years ago they voted us the $2000.00 it was as a beginning for they said they expected that they would have to vote more. Now upon the strength of what the Mission has endorsed as to our needs which were increased by the earthquake, if the W.B.M.I. will make us the appropriation as was requested in our vote last Fall for $6000. and their action upon which you have just reported to us, and let us have the Insurance money we will stand behind $440.00 of the amount.

Again has mother earth been shaking up this people and last Wednesday and Thursday we had nearly [illegible]n shocks, among which number was some heavy shocks. We remained in our home upstairs while others fled to the streets and to the lower stories of their homes.

Of course this continuous occurrence is a great strain upon the people and they turn deathly white. I think some damage has been done by the last heavy shock but just what, has not come to my ears. The property here shows no more damage unless it be the boys' school in which the gap between wall and roof is widening. But in a few days we expect to begin the pulling of the wall down.

It would seem as tho' your desire of having an annual meeting here at Erzroom might be realized for three stations at least. Bitlis and Van may have to send some one to this point and then we might all meet to-gether and talk over matters.

Please to send what part of this letter pertains to the W.B.M.I. to Chicago. The ladies are also writing there but perhaps have not all this data. Then again if you could send the two facades, we send you, to them it might help matters.

One of our pastors of whom I have written heretofore is leaving the work, that is Hovhannes Haroutoun of the Kemagh church is having a great deal of trouble with some of the villagers and wires me to come at once. This is out of the question for the place is at the least four days away and the trouble is largely money matters which he has brought on himself with his large interest taking. He has written me more than once to appeal to the Government to have matters settled but I have refrained fro doing so, feeling that such was not my province. One whom he quotes as giving a fair view of his troubles advises that the sooner he leaves the village the better it will be for the work.

Greetings from us all to your family.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Again has mother earth been shaking up this people and last Wednesday and Thursday we had nearly ten shocks among which number was some heavy shocks. We remained in our home upstairs while others fled to the streets and to the lower stories of their homes. Of course this continuous occurrence is a great strain upon the people and they turn deathly white. I think some damage has been done by the last heavy shock but just what has not come to my ears. The property here shows no more damage unless it be the boys' school which the gap between wall and roof is widening. But in a few days we expect to begin the pulling of the wall down.

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Erzroom, April 18, 1902

JUN 27 1902

Erzroom Turkey June 6th. 1902.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

I am sorry to say that it would seem as tho' my correspondense had been slighted, but so busy have the days been for the past month that little writing have I been able to do. My trip to Trebizond where I accompanied Miss Knapp and saw her safely on board a steamer for Sple. ended last Thursday when I made the return trip in four and a half days. We were very pleased to have with us, first the Drs. Underwood who were here a week while they awaited the coming of Mr. Cole, who brought Miss Knapp who was accompanied by Miss Ely. These Bitlis friends were with us some six days and we did enjoy their visit. The corner stone laying had been deferred till their arrival and so on the 13th. of May just at noon we laid the corner stone of the new building. The pastor of the church was present and took part in the services, Mr. Cole read the scriptures and gave a short address while it fell to my lot to set the stone and to offer the prayer. We could not make it very conspicuous by alluding to it as a school building but our talk and prayer had in them the thought of the work to which we hope the building will be put. The enclosed picture is one taken just at the time. The other person standing by the stone is our Vice-consul Mr. Ojalvo who has done and is doing so much for us in the work. Last Friday we were made glad by the receiving the cable from Mr Wiggin which started, us anew on the smaller house. Just now the Spring showers are hindering a little but the work is progressing nicely. I may have

Kurnool Tuesday June 6th. 1922.

Dear Mr. Burton:-

I am sorry to say that it would seem as tho' my correspondence had been slighted but so busy have the days been for the past month that little writing have I been able to do. My trip to Tredigong where I accompanied Miss Knapp and saw her safely on board a steamer for Cole. ended last Thursday when I made the return trip in four and a half days. We were very pleased to have had a glorious communion season, when some twenty young people were united to the church. All these were on confession and a large number of them were girls from the school. Four young men were among the number one of whom will doubtless become an earnest worker in this field. We also had infant baptism at the same time and over a ten children were thus presented to the Lord, among which number was our little boy Ellis.

Now we are busy in the school work preparing for the public examinations and a musical to be given at their close. We are so much in need of a large audience hall and we are sorry that we could not put as large a one as we wished in the new building. We used the Boys' high school room which will seat a hundred and fifty after a platform has its share of the floor. The proceeds of this musical is used for some Mission purpose such as the care of an orphan in India or the salary of a Bible women in China. To the proceeds ~~at~~ added a part of the weekly or rather monthly collections of the Girls' ~~CEEO-~~ C.E. society.

The work in the out-stations here is undergoing some change for changes work slowly in this land. I have reference to workers. In a couple of weeks I expect most of the workers here for the week. At that time we shall have reports of the fields and consumate wome contemplated changes. One pastor is about to come West. This last winter he has taken to settle up his money matters so that he could leave now. His place is to be filled by a younger man who knows our sentiments upon the money loaning business when carried on by a pastor in charge. There is call for an earnest man as colportuer of Bibles for this province. We need a man for this important post who is filled with the Spirit so that he will be led in all things by His leading. One who has been very successful in one of our villages as teacher we are thinking of calling for this work. If we can have a closer connection with this work thro' out the field we shall be very pleased and we feel it will be a help to the workers. I think my last letter told of the new pastor for Pasin or rather for Khanous field who is from the Pasin field. In finding new men from our workers for the various fields we have to meet some queer objections and still stranger exegesis of scripture verses.

Here is a question confronting me just now and that is inregard to aid of workers who wish to advance in their studies and go to college or seminary. Here I have four letters by me from young men who wish to be helped in college. All four men are at work-two are married and the other two single. Heretofore in this station help has been given to such.

has been given to such. But from what source it has come I do not know. Is it right to put such an item into the estimates? Or are we to appeal to individuals for such. We of the circle have no means to help such tho' we would like to do so very much. Please let me know as to this point or help us with the big question of how are we to get young men prepared for a larger service in the Kingdom. Perhaps some of our fellow workers in other stations are of the opinion that in many cases the college education unfits for real usefulness in the work among the villages, for they look for bigger places. That may be so in the cases they cite but we have the other kind also, who being filled with the Spirit of service will go where the demand is. I will be please to write of our conference a little later.

As a circle we are all keeping well and busy. It is a pleasure to report that our boy Ellis is improving right along now under the open-air treatment. That is, for the winter he did not gain at all, now after we have taken him out every day he gains the usual amount each week. Our little girl Natalie is a picture of health and happiness. Indeee God has been very good to us in the gift of these two children. What a sad accident to Mr Chambers' home to have Tol cot called home so suddenly. To-day we received the extended account of it from Mr. Chambers.

Greetings from our circle to yourself and Mrs Barton.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

SEP 12 1902

Erzroom Turkey August 18th. 1902.

OCT 4 1902

Dear Dr. Barton:-

A week ago the reports for this past year for our station with the estimates for 1903 were sent you by registered post. The W.B.M.I. have copies of their reports as well as a copy of the estimates for Woman's work, so these sent are for you.

Here we are out at tents but the camping place is near enough to the town to enable me to go into town almost every day, so that I can look after the work of building and repairs. The new building will wait for the winter ere the in-side work is undertaken as the work will then be cheaper and the wood we are to use for the floors cheaper or rather dryer, for as yet the logs are not cut into the boards for flooring. There is such a demand for carpenters that it is hard to get them at a reasonable rate. The repairs on the Boys' school are moving along well and we will start our school on time altho the roof may not be finished entirely by that time. In taking down the wall as far as we had to do, the cause for the bluging of the wall seems to be due to the heavy earth roof. This we have changed and we are putting an iron gable roof on the building. This will be lighter and will help to bind the walls better, will give us an attic and be less trouble in the spring when the rain and snow causes the earth roof to act like a seive.

The large Mission house is now ready for the girls' school as it will have to be domiciled there again this winter, altho' the kindergaten part will have rooms in the Boys'n school building as the Mission house is too small for all the school.

The conference of workers during the examination week was very useful as it brought all the workers, or nearly all, together. Of course this does not include the workers from the Russian part of our field for they are not permitted to come over here at all. But along with the Bible instruction given to these workers we had to give them some severe talks upon righteousness in money matters as regards the pledges of the people along with this money leaning

business in the which some of them have been engaged to the detriment of the work. This laxness in money matters is the result of the open-handedness of some who have gone before us coupled with that bane of these last years, viz, the relief question. For instance here is one man (and he is an ordained preacher) who because he received relief immediately after the "Event" now claims the amount then given in relief as a part of his salary. That is, his salary was and is now thirty liras a year. So is it marked on the books. Now he claims 36.00 Lt. since he received for a year or two an amount in relief which brought it up to that figure. The question came up a year or more back and to my mind the question was settled. But I find that he has been demanding from the people more so as to make this amount and this was done until just now, without our knowing it until the people came and asked help to pay him. Then was I forced to do some thing that hurt me much and that was I had to let the people know a part of the truth regarding this man. "Oh" one said to me " We are dealing with Missionaries and not business men". This was in reply to my asking if they would do the same in the market. In the report, I spoke of the ordination of Bar Kaloustian of the Samaghar church and the desire of his boys to enter the work. What do you think of helping some of these to go to the Missionary schools in Tabriz, Persia, as they cannot come to this land from Russia.

Oh for two good workers just now for the Khanous field but where to turn I do, not know. We are ready to give them a teacher for one village, but because he is not a college graduate they do not wish him. So I said you had better find a teacher yourselves. Another village, to which place we sent a young lady teacher who did excellent work, desires to have a man teacher notwithstanding the teacher last year did a good work among the women and girls. Such has led us to the thought whether it would not be best to take over the school work altogether, paying the teacher ourselves, collecting the tuition ourselves and grading the schools so as to have them

in touch with the schools of the city here. This might be a means of having a greater source from which to draw pupils for these higher schools and so gain more workers for the stations in this field. It has been my aim to show these people that they must furnish the workers in their sons and daughters. But all these things seem to be new to them. The above plan it seems to us might bring more money in than we get at this time. For the school would be for all both Gregorian and Protestant, and if it was known that the teacher was likely to continue year after year there would be a larger number attending the schools. The only thing that might be said is, that it is not co-operating with the people but it seems to us better to have a regular school than have it one year and then skip a year.

Here in the city we are likely to receive some boys from the former French friars school which has been closed, the friars having been recalled becaused the Armenian catholic bishop here, having received much money from Europe, keeps it to himself without giving the proper support to the school.

We are to be somewhat annoyed by the neighbor to the Girls' school of whom I wrote the first of this year as opposing the tearing down of the Building. He then made the threat that he would stop the construction of the building. In this he has failed but has sued us for alledged damages to his house in the pulling down of ~~his~~ our building. Our consul thinks that he has no case whatever but his money may win the court to his side in which case we will have to appeal to Cple. for a change of venue. It is a query with us, whether he wishes to get money or merely to annoy us and to bring us into court. Mr Bergholz will do all he can to help us.

We are glad to report the health of our circle as fair. Our little one has he troubles along with other babies but we hope the Summer will do him good. Greetings from our circle to you and Mrs Barton.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

in touch with the schools of the city here. This might be a means of having a greater source from which to draw pupils for these higher schools and so gain more revenue for the stations in this land. It has been my aim to show these people the ~~they~~ must take man the workers in their sons and daughters. But all these things seem to be new to them. The above plan it seems to me might bring more money in than we get at this time. For the school would be for all both Dissenion and Protestant, and if it was known that the teacher was likely to continue year after year there would be a larger number attend the schools. The only thing that might be said is that it is not co-operating with the people but it seems to us better to have a regular school than have it one year and then skip a year.

Here in the city we are likely to receive some boys from the former French Fathers school which has been closed, the Fathers having been recalled because the American catholic island here having received much money from Europe keeps it to himself without giving the poor support to the school.

He was to be somewhat annoyed by the neighbor to the Girls school of whom I wrote the first of this year as opposing the tearing down of the Building. He then made the threat that he would stop the construction of the building. In this he has failed but has sued is for alledged damages to his house in the pulling down of our building. Our counsel thinks that he has no case whatever but his money may win the court to his side in which case we will have to appeal to Ojie. For a change of venue. It is a query with us whether he wishes to get money or merely to annoy us and to bring us

Erzroom Turkey Nov 11th 1902

Dear Dr Barton:-

Your short acknowledgement of letters received arrived a week ago. Since then we have been called upon to give back our little boy Ellis to Him Who gave him to us. We laid him to rest on his first birthday as his soul took its flight the night before. Six days scarlet fever had raged in his little body and his temperature went up to 107° several times and it was with difficulty that we reduced it to 104° but if the "water pack" was left for an hour away it went up again. He fell quietly to sleep on the Wednesday evening and we laid his body to rest on the Thursday Nov 6th the day being bright and the sky blue just like his eyes.

The fact, that our judgement tells us it was best for him to go after having such a fever and so escape the evil results & perhaps life long misery, does not lessen the loneliness of our hearts. We know it is well with the boy for He who permitted it doeth all things well. Natalie had the fever first but so lightly that she declared she was not sick but well. Many children have been carried away this year with this dread disease and doubtless Mrs Stapleton brought the infection into our home. The services in the house and at the grave were very sweet. For the time being the grave is in our garden, for the Protestant cemetery is full besides being not very suitable because of the stony ground and its location.

At one time the community were approached by the pastor in regard to having the location changed. The English consul & I promised our material support but the proposition was rejected by the political committee because it did not originate with them. Now our consul Mr Berghotz is trying to interest our Government as regards an International Protestant Cemetery for this place to be under the control of the two consuls. There are several Englishmen buried here. I trust this can be accomplished.

You ask about the building and how it is prospering. It is going along finely but I fear not according to instructions for do what we could we have been unable to work against the high prices of this year. For instance lime which generally sold at seventy paras we had to pay ninety and 95 paras. Stone, timber and work were correspondingly as high. But I am sure any one will say if the buildings here on the ground were examined that this building has been put up cheaper than any other. Now the question is how to meet the deficiency. We have a plan which if the Board would let us do it would meet it. You know the large Mission House, the girls' school is occupying it now while we are in a rented house. We do not care to return there when the school leaves but would rent it and our plan is to let the proceeds go toward the new building. Or we could say let the girls' school have the use of the building until the deficiency is met. Mr Berghotz is proposing to rent it for this coming

year beginning some time in February or March. He would make a contract for five years altho' this might be changed with due notice at the end of a year. He will give 96 £t ninety six bias a year. From this 15 £t fifteen bias would go toward the rent of the house in which we live, its rental being 30 £t. thirty bias of which I pay 15 bias from my salary. Then from the rest 20 £t for tax & repairs a year would bring the proceeds of the home to 60 £t a year. The taxes on that property is not more than ten bias a year. It seemed almost an answer to our prayers for we as a family do not desire to leave our cosy little home to go into that barn of a place so that we wish to rent the house even if the Girls' School does not have the proceeds.

Please let us hear upon this point. Mr Peet suggest once the sale of the house in Ezingan and there is a man now asking about it. That property is in Mr Robt. Chambers' name so that I could not take any steps in the work of the sale.

Greetings from Mrs Stapleton and myself to you & Mrs Barton.

Fraternally Yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Rev. Robt. S. Mapleton,

Ergroone, Nov. 11, 1902.

HARRY WADE HICKS,

Rec'd JAN 2 1903

Erzroom Turkey December 9th. 1902

Dear Dr Barton:-

Ans'd JAN 7 1903

You will be receiving my last letter to you about this time, in the which you will see the sad news about our loss. It is hard to see just why he was taken and so many less cared for are left. It is lonely with out him. Since then our good doctor has been successful in treating a case of diphtheria in the family of the English consul Mr Lamb. It causes one some anxiety when such sicknesses are as commonn as they are here and more so when she is called to attend them. Just now we are all keeping well altho' there is a great deal of sickness around.

The week after my last letter I spent a Sunday in the Pasin field where we had communion and baptizm. The work there seems in good condition and if the poor people were left alone, they might be able soon to look after their work. But they have trouble all the time. One village, at which I had a few hours visit, this Summer lost a hundred cattle at one time and never saw them again. So they seem to be between two mill stones which process often leaves them little but life.

I am having some more encouraging letters from the Russian field and hope that there will be some thing for our yearly report this coming Spring. From there, there are many who are seeking homes to the West of the Mississippi and this weakens their number. Many who have gone over to that land are becoming Russian subjects as that government is demanding.

I hope you will thinking favorably of the plan we broached in our last letter as to the rent of the Upper House going toward the new building. We have faith that the money is coming and are now forwarding our own money to pay the workmen as the appropriations are all done. We hope to have the building finished by the end of January but there are some bills to be met yet and some more wood to be bought. The work in the schools is going nicely and we are now preparing some special music for Xmas season.

Our consul and his mother expect to leave this coming February and he says he will not return to this place.

We wish to send you greetings for the New Year with this letter It will be too late for Xmas but for the New Year we wish to send our best wishes to youm and Mrs Barton from Mrs Stapleton and mysdf.

Glad to hear that you met my father at Oberlin and I suspose my brother who is in the city of Cleveland as pastor. It is a cause t for rejoicing that the Board had its annual meeting with the Balance on the right side,

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Rec'd JAN 19 1903

Erzroom Turkey December 26th. 1902.

Ans'd FEB 12 1903

Dear Dr. Barton:-

I received your favor containing the appropriations for the coming year. We are very glad that the Board was free from debt at the close of its fisical year.

Here is our Xmas season a thing of the past or I might say Xmas Day for the season with its associations is with us still and we have two more such days to observe in the next month. We had a very nice time yesterday. The day was begun with carol singing by the boys who went round to several houses of our colony. After breakfast we stripped the tree of its many presents for the school girls of the Boarding department were there and all to-gether the gifts made a pretty sight. Yes we had a real tree altho' this present garden of Eden has no fir tree at all nor fig trees either. No we got our trees (for we had two small ones) from Russia and they added much to our pleasure in trimming them and to the pleasure of the littles ones for whom the trees were prepared. After this pleasing task we had a service in our home at which the boys and girls of the school sang Xmas carols. In the evening, our circle entertained the three consuls who observe this day with us. The English, French and United States consuls were present and seemed to enjoy the time. One way in which they respect us is that altho' great smokers and they smoke in the houses of other people they never attempt to do so in our house. If the desire becomes too strong they go into the yard. I wish it were possible to get them to give up smoking for example's sake but they are not given to such sacrificing for others in that way. The French consul has lately come from Sivas and is a great addition to the foreign circle.

In reply to your inquiry about our consul leaving this post; this is his intention and he has written for leave of absence which is to close by his resigning. He expects to get the reply about the 20th. of January and will leave at once for he is not well just now and needs to get home perhaps for an oppration.

If he does not get the permission he says he will resign at once and take his mother home at once. This he makes public property so I did not have to inquire. Another thing about this matter is that he has written to Consul Jewitt of Sivas about this place. The latter desires a change but is not sure whether or no he would like this place. Several letters have passed between the two upon this subject. Yes we shall hail with pleasure the coming of a man who is more in sympathy with our work one who is interested in the work of the kingdom.

Our earthquake season has come back and to-day we have had five shocks some of which were quite long but not so heavy. It does seems strange to feel this earth which we thought to be so firm rocking so.

I am sending two small pictures from our Kodak. The one is of the the Boys' school showing the gable roof. The attic which runs the entire length has no floor in it as yet but we hope soon to get the logs from which we will saw the planks to be used. We thought this kind of roof safer in this land of earthquakes. We had planned to lessen the height of the top story but found that it would cost too much. The ceilings of this building are so nailed that it would have been impossible to take off the boards so as to use them again. So we left the roof rafters and put this gable roof on top.

The second picture is of the front of the new building which we hope to use as the Girls school building. The roof is on, the windows are in, the doors placed and some of the rooms floored and plastered. The work inside we are pushing as fast as we can. Having the plastering done now safes us over $100.00 on the work and the other work is being done for less day wages than three months ago. We shall have more complete and better pictures taken of the two buildings and send them to you later. I will leave this letter open to see if there is any word from you when the post comes in to-night.

Fraternally Yours Robt. S. Stapleton

If he does not get the permission he says he will resign at once and take his mother home at once. This he makes public property so I did not have to inquire. Another thing about this matter is that he has written to Consul Jewitt of Sivas about this place. The latter desires a change but is not sure whether or no he would like this place. Several letters have passed between the two upon this subject. Yes we shall hail with pleasure the coming of a man who is more in sympathy with our work one who is interested in the work of the kingdom.

Our earthquake season has come back and to-day we have had five shocks some of which were quite long but not so heavy. It does seems strange to feel this earth which we thought to be so firm reeking so.

I am sending two small pictures from our Kodak. The one is of the the Boys' school showing the gable roof. The attic which runs the entire length has no floor in it as yet but we hope soon to get the logs from which we will saw the planks to be used. We thought this kind of roof safer in this land of earthquakes. We had planned to lessen the height of the top story but found that it would cost too much. The ceilings of this building are so nailed that it would have been impossible to take off the boards so as to use them again. So we left the roof rafters and put this gable roof on top.

The second picture is of the front of the new building which we hope to use as the girls school building. The roof is on the windows are in the doors placed and some of the rooms floored

Rec'd MAR 2 1903

Erzroom Turkey Feb. 7th. 1903.

Ans'd MAR 26 1903

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Your two favors of December and Jan. 5th. to hand the latter coming to hand this week and this I hasten to answer giving the required data as far as it is at hand just now. This is enclosed here. If further is needed I shall be pleased to gather a and forward later.

In regard to the data regarding the new building about which you wrote I am collecting the out-standing bills and in another week or so hope to send you the full account showing expenditures and what is still needed. We have been pushing forward the part of the building in hand so that the school might move into it and thus leave free the Upper House. To-day the work will stop on the building when the upper story of the larger house will be finished and in another week or so the school will move into it. For this Mr Bergholz has secured the promise from the Governor General for the transfer of the school from the one house to this new building. Seeing we have the building the transfer is within our rights for the local permit which we have for the school mentions this. Of course the place to stop us was when we wished to build. We called them houses and at that time we did not expect to move into them so soon as a school but as the consul wishes the upper house he asked to have the school transferred to this building. This his Excellency has promised to do and the work is in progress. Perhaps a word about the committee that called upon our President in December helped the matter, for such a word was let drop so that it got to the proper ears and, of course, should inquiries be made as to our treatment here, a reply could be given we are doing well. How ever it came, we have his word for it and that is what we were wanting. I might say here that we thought perhaps the rent on the Upper House for three years might meet half of our deficency on the new house but we cannot say as yet. The other half we hope to collect ourselves.

But more of this when we get the data to-gether.

To-morrow our church here is to have Communion a some what unusual thing for them. But the pastor at work is doing well along several lines and especially with the young men. I am to conduct the service and at the same time receive three of the older boys from the orphans into fellowship with the church. These are all from families of the Old Church but they come forward without any urging on our part. More than that two of them are perhaps the best scholars and will enter the work as teachers and finally become preachers. Barons Avedis and Arshavir mentioned in the other paper are the two.

Our consul has set the date for his leaving his post here, but it is on leave which he may end (and he says this is his intention) by resigning, for the 23rd. of this month. If he does resign it w will be for the last of June, for he has two months for getting home and then two months for leave of absence, during which time, he has his pay and then he resigns. Mrs Stapleton has been of great help to both our consul and his mother during sickness and they have appreciated her help. The $440.00 that Mrs Stapleton and I have put into the building has partly come from the returns for her work.

We have sent the vote the round of the Mission asking that Miss Lord be permitted a vacation after this school year. This we did with the idea that if she went now she would be able to return after the rest and resume her duties whereas if she waited longer it might end in having to leave for good. The earthquake season with its results were very trying on her and we feel that she must have a rest now.

Otherwise we are all well and send greetings to you.

Fraternally yours

Robert S. Stapleton

Erzeroum, Feb. 7, 1903

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To-morrow our church here is to have Communion a some what unusual thing for them. But the pastor at work is doing well along several lines and especially with the young men. I am to conduct the service and at the same time receive three of the older boys from the orphans into fellowship with the church. These are all from families of the Old Church but they come forward without any urging on our part. More than that two of them are perhaps the best scholars and will enter the work as teachers and finally become preachers. Barons Avedis and Arsharavi mentioned in the other paper are the two.

Our consul has set the date for his leaving his post here, but it is on leave which he may end (and he says this is his intention) by resigning, for the 25th. of this month. If he does resign it w will be for the last of June, for he has two months for getting home and then two months for leave of absence during which time he has his pay and then he resigns. Mrs Stapleton has been of great help to both our consul and his mother during sickness and they have appreciated her help. The $140.00 that Mrs Stapleton have put into the building has partly come from the returns for her work.

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Rec'd MAR 17 1903

Erzroom Turkey Feb. 21st. 1903.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Ans'd MAR 26 1903

Just a few lines to-day regarding a little news. First ,might come the weather which just now is at its worst, as a regular blizzard is blowing. We have had rather sever cold for a part of the time the thermometer reaching 30 below zero Farenhite. But later we had some warm days and the day before this storm began Mr Bergholz and his mother left for the home-land by the Russian route and they have been heard from at the frontier which they reached in safety.

As to his successor, you doubtless know for whom Dr. Norton of Harpoot is working and it may be you have the same man in mind. It is Mr Huntington who at present is at Harvard. We should like such a man to be here. In a letter to Dr. Norton Mr Bergholz seemed to favor this man and he will doubtless inform Mr. Huntington when he expects to resign which will be at the end of his vacation which will be in June some time.

The school (girls') is moving into the finished part of the new house and the teachers with Misses Lord and Bushnell and planning to go in also.

I wonder if Van station has written about the coming of their new aid this year. I may have to go to the coast In June and if this new lady, providing she were coming this way, could come at that time she could go on to Van with us this Summer when we go and so cut down expenses as well as save time for someone. Just what Board is sending her out I do not know.

By the way, in regard~~ing~~ to death notices in the Missionary Herald. Is there any charge made for srch and if not what is the custom as to having notices put in.

It may be that children's death are not noted yet some have occurred of late that have been notice but I have not seen the notice of our Ellis's death. It may be my fault in not writing to Mr. Strong but I did write to two at the rooms about it. If it has not been inserted would you kindly see to it that it is inserted so that many friends may see the item.

We are all keeping in fairly good health and trying to keep free from colds. Greetings from our entire circle to yourself and Mrs Barton.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

(Nov 5th 1902
Robert Ellis Stapleton)

REC'D APR 6 1903

Erzroom Turkey March 14th. 1903.

ANS'D AUG 7 1903

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Just a line with a request to ask, which is that you address this enclosed letter for Miss Knapp and forward it to her. I have no American stamp or I would enclose, so request number two is for a stamp so that it may go forward. This will be a great favor to us.

Your note, acknowledging the pictures sent, came to hand. I will collect a set of the pictures we have and send them to you.

Greetings from our circle to you and Mrs Barton.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Missionary Letters 1903

Erzroom, Turkey March 14th, 1903.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

By the way, in regarding to death notices in the Missionary Herald there any charge made for srch and if not what is the custom as to having notices put in.

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Greetings from our circle to you and Mrs Barton.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Erzroom, March 14/1903

Robt. S. Stapleton

(Nov 5th 1902
Robert Ellis Stapleton)

REC'D APR 5 1903
REC'D AUG 7 1903

Rec'd MAY 5 1903

Ans'd MAY 29 1903

Erzroom Turkey April 11th, 1903.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

My promised report on the new building has been delayed rather longer than was expected. Here I send it to-day and hope it will reach you , as some of our letters do not always reach the parties to whom they are sent. You will see from the statement an approximate account as all the work in land is not finished and so all money, for work done, has not been paid.

Now our request is this. To meet this debt we ask the use of the Upper House to rent it and use the proceeds for this end. I think you understand that we, that is our family, are living in a rented house which we find more convenient, smaller, warmer and in every way more home like than the big house. The big house is more suited for a consulate and three of them would like it. As the ladies with the school left it, and we did not care to go back to it, we rented it to the American consulate for a year with the option on their part of renewal if they desired. The amount is Lt.90.00 or$396.00 a year. Out of this comes the difference between the rent of the house in which we live now and the amount we are allowed for rent. We pay from our salary 15.00 Lt. for rent and the extra 15.00, for this house rents for 30.00 Lt a year, we take from the rent received from the Upper House. Now if we might use the proceeds of th this rent after the taxes and repairs are paid for this balance against this Building fund we have another thought for the rest of the money needed to finish this building. And it is this, that we

collect the rest ourselves from friends whom we can interest. Not that we expect to divert any of the regular contributions from the Board's funds but from friends whom we may be able to interest in the work. What is needed in order to finish this building is hard to say. But we thought as we have studied the matter that another # Lt. 300.00 would finish all but the attic and perhaps a part of that might be met with this sum. Now we are to try and get this $1340.00 and if need be we would have to assume some thing personally as we have already done and put another 100.00 Lt. toward it. Already we have some promised to this amount and if the rent of the Upper House could be used toward the debt then we could use the small amounts as they are coming in to finish the smaller part of the house. We hope to hear as soon as possibly from you on this matter. It is in fact just what the Girls' school has had for the past year and a half that is the use of the Upper House while it took care of the extra rent for the house which we rent. If another family were to come out here, this matter might still go on and the second house rent for them and still make a gain from the rent of the Upper House.

Perhaps something ought to be said here why the amount given has been so over drawn. But I can only add to what was said in my former letter the fact which I think was not mentioned then which is that we had to go down three metres for a good foundation instead of one as we had expected as the ground was found to be too soft as it was filled-in earth. This you will see ate up our stone and lime at a great rate even to making a large difference in the cost

I am having a picture taken of the front of the building when the air is a little brighter for we have ~~having~~ are cloudy weather just now . We are putting up an iron gate in front which is a gift to the work. I think perhaps all the points have been covered and now we wait your reply. It may be that the proceeds of the rental of the Upper House for five years will be needed .

It is our Easter season with us here. The native Easter comes a week later. As soon as the roads open up for travel we hope to visit every church in our field this side of the Russian line. The meeting for this year we hope to have in Van during the Summer vacation.

There is a question as regards our consulate here and it is the talk or desire of Mr Dickinson (or so Mr Bergholz said) of transferring it to Trebizond with the hope that the commercial side of its work might be enhanced. This it seems to us would be too bad after it has been established here and not for us only but it would remove it farther from Van and Bitlis. Of course they have the English vice-consuls there but these always refer cases here for instructi which means a delay in time as you yourself know and that is often detrimental in this land. I wish every province had a consul for we can testify to the benefit derived from their presence.

We are keeping well here and the work is going along nicely. We observe the Lord's Communion two weeks from this Sunday.

Greetings from our circle to you and ~~RRRR~~ Mrs. Barton.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Erzroum, April 11, 1903

1C

Statement for the new Building for the Girls' School Erzroom.

Materials.		
Wood in logs.	Lt. 795.41	
Stone all kinds.	197.51	
Lime and Bricks	239.84	
Sand.	39.07	
Government permits.	43.05	
Iron for doors and windows	123.46	
Roof iron.	78.43	
Nails	26.78	
Glass	21.99	
Cement	26.33	
Plaster.	37.88	
Cartage.	12.51	
Sundries. (Night-watch &c.)	31.09	1673.35
Work.		
Masons.	227.19	
Carpenters	189.46	
Plastering	7.99	
Laborers.	139.44	
Wood sawing (logs).	86.21	650.29
Total for Materials and Work.		2323.64
Credits.		
Money on hand June 1900.	120.66	
Gift from Mrs Bliss	227.27	
Interest on above (one year)	12.00	
W.B.M.I. March 1902.	1015.91	
Insurance on old building	455.00	
Overcharge on debit side.	17.80	
Mr and Mrs Stapleton	100.00	
Orphanage for windows &c.	40.00	
Loan due to Miss Lord	11.13	
Sundries (wood sold)	73.69	2073.46
Balance against the Building fund.		250.18

A few bill out-standing for unfinished work will bring this balance up to Lt. 300.00 while wood for sale(fire wood) and a few credits will bring from 20 to 30 liras. The lira here is $4.40

Fraternally

Robert S. Stapleton

P.S. In the larger portion of the house there are five rooms an hall of the second story while on the first floor three rooms are useable but the hall here is not floored altho' the ceiling has been put up. This leaves two or three rooms to be finished and th hall of the first story. Into one of the rooms of the small house we have put a floor that will last for some years having made it from the side slabs cut from the logs. This leaves five rooms to receive floor and ceiling(altho two of these rooms are quite smal with the hall upstairs and down stairs of the smaller house. We have the plaster for the walls and cielings of all the house.

Received May 5, 1903

Rec'd JUN 2 1903

Erzroom Turkey May 8th. 1903.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Ans'd AUG 7 1903

I think there are no letters from you unanswered on my file so I have no questions to answer. This last week Our good Doctor and I made a short visit to the Passon field and about this my letter is to tell the left here on the Friday taking our little Mehalie along and a fine time she had. A good days' travel brought us to the place where we were to stay for the Lord's Day and so we had the full day of Saturday to prepare ourselves and the people for the services of the morrow. No sooner was it reported that the doctor had arrived than they began bringing the sick for her to see. At times it was hard work to get away from them to sit down to eat the food prepared for us. But what a hopeless task it did seem to try and do anything for them, so little did the women seem to know of what seems to us the most simple requirements of cleanliness. Many of their ailments are directly traceable to dirt and the method of life they have. Sore eyes is perhaps the most prevailing disease and the treatment for this given by the doctor in many cases has been wonderfully productive in its results. Yet at ~~this~~ times, it needs a persistent application and care for many months. This requires a great deal of perseverance which at times is lacking in these things. Late at night and early in the morning they came for treatment and where ever we went the crowd would follow and every opportunity was taken to see the doctor. So Saturday was a full day. The Sabbath dawned fair and bright and by five-thirty the church was pretty well crowded at the service during which five infants were presented to the Lord and were baptized. The' around there was a good attention paid to the words spoken. The noon service was begun an hour before the stated time because the people had come too have before the time and the room was literally jammed and the hall was also crowded even beyond the door. At this time we observed the Communion service and received seven members into church fellowship)

One among the number was a young man who had come out boldly from the old church and is making a grand stand for his Master . Fitting indeed were the words addressed to him as the right hand of fellowship was extended to him namely those of our Savior, when He said " Ye have not chosen me but I have chosen you and ordained you that ye might bear much fruit" The very them, because of the numbers present, the people listened quietly to what was said and we pray that the Word preached might be a blessing to many. When one meets their Leaders and perceives their ignorance of the things they are supposed to teach their people , he is surprised that the people know anything of the things of the Kingdom. And in fact they do not know many of the simplest things about Christ and His love. We thought the Sabbath day would be free from the interruptions of the sick. But no. News had spread to the other villages and people began to come from them two and three hours away. During the afternoon we were called upon to have an engagement ceremony which we had in the church and it gave us an opportunity of sowing a seed which we pray will bring forth fruit. The vesper season was occupied with the study of the Sabbath school lesson. It was well handled by the worker there and the people especially the brethern responded in a way as to rejoice a teacher. Thus drew to an end a busy day and as the quiet of the Sabbath evening fell upon the village it seemed as the' God's blessing was upon us all.

But there is little to cheer and uplift the lives of this people and their constant cry is when shall we be freed from this oppression. But like the children of Israel in all of it they turn not to the Lord who alone could heal their distress if they turned unto Him with all their heart.

We are about ready to start out on another visit to another church, Erzingan where we will be gone three weeks. We hope to be able to write an equal a report of that .

With best of greetings from Mrs Stapleton and myself to you and Mrs Larson I remain

Sincerely yours Robert S. Stapleton

[redacted]

[redacted] would be you and [redacted] of sand.

[redacted] would be done unto us all as you have done unto. We hope that in the church and it gave us an opportunity of making a good which we pray will bring forth fruit. The number present was occupied with the study of the Sunday school lesson. It was well found by the various class and the people especially the brethren assembled in a way as to include a teacher. Time does go on and a many day and on the point of the Sabbath evening fell upon the village it seemed as the' God's blessing was upon us all.

But there is little to cheer and uplift the lives of this people and their constant cry is when shall we be freed from this oppression. But like the children of Israel in all of it they were not to the Lord who alone could heal their distress if they turned and him with all their hearts.

We are glad really to stand and as much

[redacted]

Orphanage, Mary's Creek

Rec'd AUG 20 1903

Erzroom Station.
Van Turkey July 28th 1903

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Here I am sending you our Annual Tabular View for 1902 and estimates for 1904. I am sorry that our various reports are not ready. Coming away from Erzroom in a hurry several of our needed papers got left behind. But we hope to have them for you in a week, say by next post.

You have doubtless learned how our Annual Meeting for this year came to naught but we the Erzroom contingent came on to make a visit with the friends here at Van and next week we go on to Bitlis since none of that station came here. We are to remain there ten days after which we shall visit the Khanous part of our field on our way home.

There is but time for a line to accompany our reports here. This week is to be given to finishing our reports for the next post.

Greetings from our circle one of whom you will see ere you get this.

Fraternally Yours
Robt. S. Stapleton

Rec'd SEP 25 1903

Erzroom Turkey September 5th. 1903.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Just a line to acknowledge the receipt of your last favor sent the day Miss Lord called upon you. We are glad that she reached home in safety and further that her fears were put aside regarding her sister who was sick.

The next item will be our sincere thanks for the very generous gift of our unknown friend toward the debt on the new school building. It will make a slice into the debt. And now we pray for not only the debt but for the rest of the money required for the completion of the structure. Next, this letter is to announce our safe arrival home after our visit to Van and Bitlis. We are sorry that we went so far without having an annual meeting, for at last the English consul at Bitlis strongly urged them not to go in face of the warning from Cple. So we will have to try another year but not all of us, as our family m may be increased by a little one at the New Year and that would prevent Mrs Stapleton from going. We have all enjoyed the visit with our friends in the two cities and altho' we could not see much of their work, for it was Summer, yet we did see enough to encourage us and we are home again with a stronger desire to push the work. On our way back, we sat five days in the Khanous field with the result that we may have some six boys and two girls from that reigon in our schools here in the city. But we feel that they must have another visit from us this Fall and the pastor of the city church

here will no doubt accompany me to help in organizing the churches there on a better basis. The fact that he is permitted to accompany me speaks well for the change that is coming over this church in their desire to help out side of their own congregation. In one place in Khanous the village of Chevemeh there are some twelve persons waiting to join the church. The village of Heramik we hope will have a good worker this winter and one who will be a permenent one.

But we have to plead guilty this year in out tardy report which were you to have it to-day I fear it would be too late. You will have to forgive us this time and show your forgiveness by sending us another family to help us in this field. We shall pray for the Annual meeting with you this year, that the result may be the forthcoming of a family here and not here only but thro' out this Mission which is so much in need of workers.

We are all well and now preparing for the school which will open in another week. Mrs Stapleton joins me in sending you and Mrs. Barton warmest greetings.

Fraternally yours.

Robert S. Stapleton

P.S.

I learn to-day that a certain Mr. Brown G. Sullivan of New York has been appointed U.S. Consul here.

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Fraternally yours.

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Stapleton, Sept. 5, 1903

Ans'd NOV 16 1903

Erzroom Turkey October 24th. 1903.

Ans'd NOV 27 1903

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Just a line by this post to report we are all well and up to this time have been in no danger what ever altho' doubtless reports from this city may lead some to think that we are in peril. The attack the agitators made upon a village in this province is the cause of no little unrest among the Ar------- but the village and the seat of the unrest is some fourteen hours to the East of us. The authorities are doing all they can to keep the section quiet and of course the presence of soldiers and especially the Hamedia is rather hard upon the villages upon whom they are quartered. But the trouble is brought on these villages by their own people-the agitators.

I have just returned from a tour of our churches each one of which I have been enabled to visit though for a very short time. The pastor of the Erzroom church, a former pupil of yours in Harpoot accompanied me as the church here thought it would be nice for him to visit the outside work. By he way he sends greetings to you and Mrs Barton. He is Bar. Arpear Var[illegible] from Bitlis and was in the Seminary some ten years ago. As yet my report of this trip is not ready but I hope to have it ready a week later. I am now preparing to send one of our teachers here to the village of Khozloo in the Pasin field or rather the Khanous field. Mr. Ojalvo this last week interested himself in a request that we made to the effect that the two village teachers in Pasin where the late trouble took place might be especially protected from raids of robbers and the supposed gaurdians of the peace. Our governor has sent word to those in command there to the effect that special care be taken in behalf of these teachers ladies and gentlemen. Things seem to be more quiet now in that reigon and if no other agitators come over the border all may pass over. But who can say what revenge that village will seek to take when the protection is removed for the assualt made

Harpoon Turkey October 24th, 1903.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Just a line by this post to report we are all well and up to this time have been in no danger what ever altho' doubtless reports from this city may lead some to think that we are in peril. The attack the agitators made upon a village in this province is the cause of no little unrest among the A-------- but the village and the seat of the unrest is some fourteen hours to the East of us. The authorities are doing all they can to keep the section quiet and of course the presence of soldiers and especiall the Hamedia is rather hard upon the villages upon whom they are quartered. But the trouble is brought on these villages by their own people the agitators.

I have just returned from a tour of our churches each one of which I have been enabled to visit for a very short time. The pastor of the Harpoon church [illegible] in Harpoot accompani me as the church [illegible] for him to visit th outside work. By the way he sends [illegible] to you and Mrs Barton. He is Rev. Arpear Varpetian from Bitlis and was in the Seminary some ten years ago. As yet my report of this trip is not ready but I hope to have it ready a week later. I am now preparing to send one of our teachers here to the village of Khozloo in the Pasin field or rather the Khanous field. Mr. Ojalvo this last week interested himself in a request that we made to the effect that the two village teachers in Pasin where the late trouble took place might be especially protected from raids of robbers and the suppo

upon them. It may be we shall be called upon to help the two villages where our work is and where the soldiers have been quartered for it has been to the consumption of their food stuff.

The Annual Meeting for this year is past . But I trust an influence from its sessions still lives and will be scattered among the churches of America and its waves reach to the farest out-station of our Missions the world over. We did not receive any program this year nor have we being getting the Mission periodicals very regular this year. Tho' late I trust my report reached you safely with the pictures sent. Can we hope for any reinforcements for this field for the coming year? The W.B.M.I. when they gave the money for the new building a few years ago said that we must not ask for any thing else for a number of years. But we are not satisfied with such and need another lady worker who might have charge of the Woman's work in the city and the out-stations. This year Miss Bushnell's hand are more than full althe' Mrs Stapleton is helping in the school. But with the orphanage now on our hands and the little medical work that she has it is a question whether it is not at the sacrifice of the home and the care which ought to be given to the children of the home. For what can we do when the need is so great and the one so over burdened. We are all keeping well as well as busy and pray that health and strength may be given to continue with the work.

We hope this finds you, Mrs. Barton and the children well. With greetings for the Thanksgiving season I remain

fraternally yours

Robert S. Stapleton

upon them. It may be we shall be called upon to help the two villages where our work is and where the soldiers have been quartered for it has been to the consumption of their food stuff.

The Annual Meeting for this year is past . But I trust an influence from its sessions still lives and will be scattered among the churches of America and its waves reach to the farest out-station of our Missions the world over. We did not receive any program this year nor have we being getting the Mission periodicals very regular this year. Tho' late I trust my report reached you safely with the pictures sent. Can we hope for any reinforcements for this field for the coming year? The W.B.M.I. when they gave the money for the new building a few years ago said that we must not ask for any thing else for a number of years. But we are not satisfied with such and need another lady worker who might have charge of the Woman's work in the city and the out-stations. This year Miss Bush nell's hand are more than full and the Mrs Stapleton is helping in the school. But with the emphasis now on the hands and the little medical work that she has it is a question whether it is not at the sacrifice of the [illegible] to be given to the children of the home. We also need a worker when the need is so great and the one so over burdened. We are all keeping well as well as busy and pray that health and strength may be given to continue with the work.

We hope this finds you, Mrs. Burton and the children well. With greetings for the Thanksgiving season I remain

Fraternally yours

Original, dated 11/25/03

NOV 28 1903

Ans'd NOV 27 1903

Erzroom Turkey October 31st. 1903.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

A week has gone by and I have not been able to write the report of the trip I promised last week. But I wanted to write to you about a few things so again favor you with a letter. This morning's post brought your favor of the 8th inst.
This week we learn that our consulate is to be transferred to the coast that is at Trebizond and we are to have an agent here which will doubtless be the English consul. This as I have written you before has been the dream of Mr Dickenson at Cple. whose one idea is the commerce which he may be able to increase with this land and the home land. As yet we do not know just when the change will take place or if the new consul will come here at all. There is to be a new English consul here and the one pro temp arrived this week. As an agent he may be as useful as our consul altho' he cannot be expected to be as interested in us and the work as one from our own land.

What cannot be cured must be endured and so we will pray that it will turn out for the good of the work. The trouble which cast the reigon of Pasin into excitement some weeks ago has about finished but while it was on it upset our work there. Two girl teachers had gone out there this Fall. In Komatsor the school I fear will not be reopened this winter so the girl came back to the city but has returned to Todoveren as the teacher for that village is not permitted by her father to return. The former one relates how for two weeks they lived in the cellar, not permitted to leave the house because of fear. But the house so far had not be broken into altho' several attempts had been made to get into it from the roof. The attention of the Vali has been called to it that is the condition and I believe he will act with energy for he is a man of that stamp. It is feared that the people will be in great need after the soldiers leave the villages. The Governor intends to reduce the number quartered there.
Enclosed is a copy of a vote we have stamped on the round of the Mission this week. This house of which it speaks has not been used by the Mission since Mr Richardson left this land. The rent received for it is $20.00 a year while the taxes upon it are $13.00 and often the rest goes for repairs. It is of no use to go into the subject of how too large a price was paid for the place and how the seller cheated the Mission in dividing the property. The question now is to save something from the property. The original cost was 300.00 LT (three hundred Turkish liras or $ 1320.00) but I know the property would not bring more than 120.00 LT. or $520.00. The property is in Mr Robert Chambers name and we shall need power of attorney from his hand ere the sale can be made. It hardly seems to us that there can be any question about the advisability of selling it and now there is a purchaser who makes an offer for it. If it seems best to you would you please to see Mr Chambers about the paper needed giving us power to act. There is some other property here in Dr Parmelee's name. Should not the name be changed in proper form now while his estate is being seen to?
A little more snow this week that is the line of snow has come almost to the foot of the mountain. With greetings to you and Mrs Barton I remain

fraternally yours

Robert S. Stapleton

Erzroom Turkey October 31st. 1903.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

A week has gone by and I have not been able to write the report of the trip I promised last week. But I wanted to write to you about a few things so again favor you with a letter. This morning's post brought your favor of the 8th inst. This week we learn that our consulate is to be transferred to the coast that is at Trebizond and we are to have an agent here which will doubtless be the English. This as I have written you before has been the dream of Mr Dickenson at Cyle. whose one idea is the commerce which he may be able to increase with this land and the home land. As yet we do not know just when the change will take place or if the new consul will come here at all. There is to be a new English consul here and the one pro temp arrived this week. As an agent he may be as useful as our consul altho' he cannot be expected to be as interested in us and the work as one from our own land.

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Ans'd DEC 17 1903

Ans'd JAN 11 1904

Erzroom Turkey November 14th. 1903.

Dear Home Friends:-

Upon our return from Van and Bitlis, in which trip we had spent our Summer vacation, the first thing to need our attention was the preparation for the opening of the schools in the city here. This year the orphans did not pass the Summer in tents but as many as had friends in the city spent the two months' vacation with them and none of them seem the worst for staying in the city. Quite a number of both girls and boys have found homes as servants in the city so that our list is not as great as last year. But our own personal care for them has been increased some what as Miss Bond who for three and half years has been helping us in the work left us last July and has returned to London where she has entered a hospital to train as nurse.

Our schools opened on September 14th. with the usual numbers for the beginning. But it was found that the bishop and the priests of the old church had been at work in many crafty ways to force their people to stop patronizing our schools and to send their children to the old church schools. The parents were threatened with excommunication almost. This year they began in time and during the Summer vacation they by threats and annoyances got the tuition for this coming year from the parents and so secured the attendance of the children at the schools. But this is short sighted policy and will in time end in their losing the children altogether. So you see we like some people in England have our school problem.

After the schools got fairly started, we began to think of the workers in the out-stations of this center and of the much needed visits we had promised to make them. I was accompanied by the pastor of the church here in Erzroom as its members desired that their pastor might become acquainted with the other churches of this station. During his absence Bar. Matteos the teacher in the Boys' High school occupied the pulpit. The first field to receive our attention was that of the Khanous plain, to reach which a journey of two days was needed. We were not alone on this trip, for a girl teacher was going to keep school in one of the villages there. ~~On~~ Arusiag by name having lost her father in the events of 1895 was received into our orphanage home with her Brother. During her seven years stay ~~there~~ she had learned what it was to be an earnest Christian girl. Having graduated from the High school this year she, to show her gratitude, willingly went out to teach in this village school of ours, altho her friends are very strogly attached to the old church. Shegonau

There are five villages on this plain where work is carried on. Part Khanous, the county seat, was the first place to which we went and after paying our regards to the offical there, we looked into the condition of the girls' school where some sixty odd girls were being taught by Degeen Sarah, a graduate, or perhaps only a former pupil, of the Mt. Holyoke school for girls in Bitlis, Turkey.

Nor are her efforts confined to the weekday alone, for on the Lord's Day she gathers as many as will come and teaches them the Sunday school lesson. Very grateful is she and other workers for the big and little pictures which friends in America from time to time have sent. These are very useful in teaching the lesson. There are no other services altho' there are several protestant families in the place, but it is feared they are too much given to the making of money to be much interested in the Master's Kingdom.

The next village is that of Chevemeh, some six miles distant where Arusiag is to teach school this winter. Here Bar Nersus is at work and with his family lives in the parsonage. This is the oldest out-station belonging to this center. But so long has the church been without a regular pastor that the church had almost died out. Three old members were all that could be found to receive the twenty or more new members which number were received at the communion service held on the Sabbath of our visit. Many of these had been waiting for some years and during the year's work of Bar Nersus they had shown such an earnest desire to unite in fellowship with the church that after a conferance with them it was decided to receive them. We then introduced Arusiag to the women of the village for whom we hope she will work and pray both in and out of school. Oh the direful ignorance of these women and the little respect they receive from the men who think of themselves as "lords of creation"!

In Elpis some two miles off the road is a house-hold of father and sons, with their families, much persecuted but faithful. Here in their home they hold the weekly service and often during the winter months gather the children and teach them to read the Bible. Very earnestly do they plead for a girl teacher who shall go and keep a good school for them. But towards her support they can but give a little bread. Just now there is no teacher available but we trust that ere long their faith and prayers for a teacher mey be rewarded.

As we start from this place the next village Herameek is in sight. There is no stated worker here but a faithful lay brother keeps the Sabbath and weekday meetings going, while a young man of village conducts a winter school. In the coming Spring we hope to have a good worker for them, one who will be able to take charge of the entire work. But what is most needed here is an ordained itinerant ordained pastor for the entire field who will be able to take in hand all the pastoral duties of these churches. It was rather late harvest which by the way has been very good this year. But the poor people have always some to contend with. This year they were anxiously waiting for some one to buy and collect the taxes of the village which is in the products of the soil. Thus it was they were waiting for their grain to be measured so that they might put it indoors out of danger of rain. But as the grain was

plentiful this year and therefore cheap for there is no cheap way of transportation to any market the man having the taxes this year would have to handle much more grain for the money he would receive, so there were no bidders for the work at all. When grain is scarce and therefore bringing a good price bidders are not wanting and well would it be if the government had this year arrested the same as in former years had bought the taxes rather than putting in prison certain of the village who are suppose to be able to buy the taxes and by this means trying to forse a sale. Another thing to be contended with is the bonus that the tax gatherers ask at times to "grease the measure" that is to start the work .
A custom I observed this year shews a better side of the farmer. It is the portion given to the poor. When the tax gatherer has measur the grain the farmer gave two good hands full to each bag there nor are these poor always from his village but the poor of the city go out and in this way get a good share of their winter's food.

A young man from our city school is going out to the last of these five villages Khoslee by name. Here a small band of worshipers are to be found. When we visited the village we found a young man , who had been ordained as Gregorian priest, sitting in our school room as it was not being used for the Summer. He was about to enter upon the duties of priest to this village but first he had a forty days fast to keep during which time he was permitted but one meal a day and he was not to leave the building where he was staying, but his time was to be given to study and devotion. He was allowed the indulgence of his tobacco. He attended the service we held in the room opposite to where he was sitting. After the service I gave to him a Bible in present day Armenian which he promised to read every day. It is said that the bible is not used in their church except to be kissed and worshiped. Portion of the bible written in their books of service are used in the church but as this is in in the ancient Armenian few understand what is being said and are in great ignorance of the bible. So a plan has been started . This is to put a bible in the modern tongue into the hands of every priest who will promise to read it daily and we ask that God will bless the reading. Then we urge them when they preach which is done at times to used this book.

Again we are in the saddle as we go to our Pasin field by a short cut across the mountains a way I have not been before. It takes us thro' a Koordish country , for these races are sandwiched in between each other. The first night we taste of Koordish hospitality and as a result have a sleepless night. Since our return we learn that this village has been sacked or the Armenian part of it. Words This race in general are an ignorant, cruel and revengeful people. Their history is not written but exists in ledgend and song but these are known only to the few. In some parts further south they govern themselves by tribes who are always at war with one another There is no work for this people or at least in this part of the

land. The Turkish gaurds who are with us for protection are very meek among this people whereas among an unarmed people they are not only brave but oppressive. As we pass along we see many signs of the hidden wealth of this land. Mineral springs are abundant and some of these are warm or even hot. The peaks of this mountainous reigon show the lime, the iron and other rocks.

Two dys march brings us into the Pasin plain where we are among Armenians again and so more at home. A few days before the two girl teachers for these two villages(Komatsor and Tedeveren) had come from the city. Here the villagers were more fortunate in regard to the harvests. But since our visit there, they have been put in an unfortunate posistion by the company of agitators who tho' of their race had crossed the border and had attacked a village near by. These brought down a large company of soldiers who had an engagement with the agitators and then were left quartered among these villages with the result that they are being eaten out of house and home by the men and horses. Our communion season with this people was a quiet enjoyable time and the worker there was looking forward to the winter's work with great hope and now the school has been shut and the brethern feel poor indeed which does not help the spiritual side of their lives. While here we met with a problem too often met. The church committee seeking aid in a money question over which they had not once made it a subject of prayer. I refused to give them help at all until they had prayed over the subject. As a result of the disturbed condition of affairs there the two girl teacher returned to the city but one has gone back and is now holding her school.

The days are much shorter now and the eleven hours journey from this village to the city would take much more time than the light of one day so we start an hour before daylight. It is a rainy day and the roads are muddy but we push on in time to see our home be- the sun went down. Not being expected that day, we were the more warmly welcomed and glad to be at home again.

We brought four boys back with us for the school here . This is a good beginning for out of the number we hope to get ~~ws~~ workers for the furture as it is one thing that this field lacks. We will have to train them ourselves for we cannot hope to draw from the other Missions where there are colleges for there is always need in those places for any who will enter the work.

We have a short rest at this time and will give you a rest also ere we drag you over the rest of our journey which took us almost three weeks more. But we beg that you will pray for us and these workers who are trying to carry the light into the midst of people who think they have the true light but of whose light might be said that it is worse than the blackest darkness, for it prevents them from seeing the light as it is in Christ Jesus.

Yours in the Master's service

Robert S. Stapleton

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We brought four boys back with us for the school here . This is a good beginning for out of the number we hope to get us workers for the future as it is one thing that this field lacks. We will have to train them ourselves for we cannot hope to draw from the other Missions where they are colleges for there is always need in those places for any who will enter the work.

We have a short rest at this time and will give you a rest also are we drag you over the rest of our journey which took us almost three weeks more. But we beg that you will pray for us and these workers who are trying to carry the light into the midst of people who think they have the true light but of whose light might be said that it is worse than the blackest darkness, for it prevents them from seeing the light as it is in Christ Jesus.

Yours in the Master's service

REC'D DEC 17 1903

Erzroom Turkey November21st. 1903.

ANS'D JAN 11 1904

Dear Dr. Barton:-

I do not think that there is any letter from you unanswered here unless it be your favor to Mrs Stapleton to which she is replying now. Here comes the first part of the promised report of which I made some five extras copies and these will go to some fifteen places in all.

Here we are without a consulate as the Vice-consul arose very quickly this week. Mr Peet says we are to be congratulated in the matter that the new insumbent is so far away from us. How that is we do not know. I am writing to day to have the English consul or some one act for us for as yet there has been no arrangement made of which we have heard. So our Upper Mission House is empty for the winter except that we will see that some one is put in there so as to keep an eye upon the premises. It may be that in the Spring the new English consul will desire to rent the place if not we will see about moving back into it. The rent received has made it possible to do some much needed painted with some good American paint and to make other changes which we thought nescessary.

Just after writing my last letter to you we did receive the program for the Board Meeting and we heard from Miss Lord of the splendid meetings held there. Glad to know are we that there is someone coming to Trebizond to occupy that post. Now the line is once more complete. If things would only move a little faster here and a railroad come from the coast to go on to Van and Bitlis it would perhaps aid those desiring to get out of this country tothe trans-Mississippi reigons.

Ramazan begins to day and glad are they that the days are so short and perhaps we may also be thankful for it might affect us indirectly. There is only one matter just now with which we are troubling the government and that is the transfer papers of the girls' school. The Vali promised that the paper should be given this week and just before Mr Ojalve left I went up to see the Vali and he promised to help us in any thing he could. How much that means remains to be seen, altho' he is a fairly good man. But we sh shall not trouble him more than we have to. Mrs Stapleton's visit to his wife may be something of a reminder of us when we may need something.

Next week brings thanksgiving and we hope to have as guests Mr and Mrs Shipley the English consul placed here for this winter. They are very nice people and we like them very much. If our country could only keep their men in the consular service when they find a good man how nice it would be. Of course it would be neccessary to have good men.. I have only three letters to write to-day to our representatives and to Washington so my post will be full to-day.

Greetings for the Xmas season to you and Mrs Barton.

Fraternally yours

Robert S. Stapleton

copy

65

Rec'd DEC 29 1903

Erzroom Turkey December 5th, 1903.

Rec'd JAN 11 1904

Dear Dr. Barton:-

This is to bring our New Year's greetings to you and Mrs Barton. At this writing we are all well and busy at work. Yes our winter has begun althe' as yet we have no snow in the city but the frost king has full sway. I think in my last letter you learned that the consulate had been transferred from here to Trebizond. It was done in a hurry , the cavasses discharged on the spot without any consideration whatever that it was winter and a hard time to find work. I had occassion to write the consul in regard to the lease for the house which was for a year. In reply he wrote that the Government was not held by any contract made by the former consul and that he (the former consul) was responsible for the matter. He advised me to write Mr Berghelz but that I am not thinking of doing but rather to reply to Mr Sullivan's letter that while we know the statement about the government and the contract, yet the query remained with us whether a consulate could leave a building it was renting without due consideration to the rights of the owner and a lease that was made when the house was rented. I say I am thinking of replying to him in this way, yet I have not decided . I fear such will not sit well with him but the question is whether he should be permitted to act so without some protest being made of it. No I do not write to ask that the matter be brought up there. I am rather inclined to waive our rights with a presentation of the matter to the man than to carry it far

Bracon Turkey December 8th, 1903.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

This is to bring our New Year's greetings to you and Mrs Barton. At this writing we are all well and busy at work. Yes our winter has begun quite, as yet we have no snow in the city but the frost king has full sway. I think in my last letter you learned that the consulate had been transferred from here to Trebizond. It was done in a hurry , the savasses discharged on the spot without any consideration whatever that it was winter and a hard time to find work. I had occasion to write the consul in regard to the lease for the house which was for a year. In reply he wrote that the Government was not held by any contract made by the former consul and that he (the former consul) was responsible for the matter. He advised me to write Mr Bergholz but that I am not thinking of doing but rather to reply to Mr Sullivan's letter that while we knew the statement about the government and the contract yet the query remained with us whether a consulate could leave a building it was renting without due consideration to the rights of the owner and a lease that was made when the house was rented. I say I am thinking of replying to him in this way yet I have not decided . I fear such will not sit well with him but the question is whether is should be permitted to act so without some protest being made of it. So I do not write to ask that the matter be brought up there.I am rather inclined to waive our rights with a presentation of the matter to the man than to carry it far

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We are sorrow to say that Mrs Shipley of the English consulate is sick with what looks very like typhoid fever. Mrs Stapleton is in attendance. I learn from a letter to-day that my father has been called as pastor of the Genesee Ave. church of Saginaw Michigan. He left his church near Cleveland to go and live near or with my bro ther and sisters in Saginaw. When there he was called to the work. But doubtless you are able to keep in touch with all these change of ministers.

I trust this will be in time for the New Year and so it may bring our greetings in time.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

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Pretermally yours

Rec'd JAN 27 1904

Erzroom Turkey Jan. 2nd. 1904.

Ans'd JAN 27 1904

Dear Dr. Barton:-

For the first letter of the New Year we are glad to announce the birth of a little daughter in our home. Her name is to be Ellie May and already she is doing well-has good lungs, and there is no discount to be taken on her appetite. She came with the last day of the old year. Just the day before we had telegraphed to Dr Usher that, as he was relieved at home by the advent of a little daughter to his family and he had expressed his willingness to come, if it was possible he might come. But it would seem as tho' little Ellie May had determined not to have other than her father in attendance and so came and made it necessary to change the order by telegram. Every thing went nicely and both mother and child are doing well up to this time and we hope nothing will occur. To add to this, is the good report that a serious case Mrs. Stapleton had in charge is doing nicely and the patient improving. It is the wife of Mr Shipley the acting English consul at this post just now. Our Vali sent $ 66.00 in acknowledgement of Mrs Stapleton's help to his wife in her recent confinement. This was at once put to our Medicine account and will help to straighten it somewhat. We did however send $ 20.00 to Van toward the hospita there.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of the estimates from you. Another thing to cause us to rejoice is that an Armenian doctor in America has promised to furnish a sick room in the new school in memory of his mother who died here some two or more years ago. He passed over to me the money his mother left to be expended in the education of his two girl cousins of this place. I think that is very good for an Armenian and there are hopes for them if they can reside in America for some time as this young man has done. Greetings from us all as a circle to you and Mrs Barton.

Fraternally yours Robt. S. Stapleton

Brroom Turkey Jan. 2nd. 1904.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

For the first letter of the New Year we are glad to announce the birth of a little daughter in our home. Her name is to be Millie May and already she is doing well has good lungs, and there is no discount to be taken on her appetite. She came with the last day of the old year. Just the day before we had telegraphed to Dr Basher that as he was relieved at home by the advent of a little daughter to his family and he had expressed his willingness to come if it was possible he might come. But it would seem as tho' little Millie May had determined not to have other than her father in attendance and so came and made it necessary to change the order by telegram. Every thing went nicely and both mother and child are doing well up to this time and we hope nothing will occur. To add to this is the good report that a serious case Mrs. Stapleton had in charge is doing nicely and the patient improving. It is the wife of Mr Shipley the acting English consul at this port just now. Our Vali sent $ 66.00 in acknowledgement of Mrs Stapleton's help to his wife in her recent confinement. This was at once put to our Medicine account and will help to straighten it somewhat. We did now ver sent $ 20.00 to Van toward the hospital there.

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Greetings from us all as a circle to you and Mrs Barton.

Fraternally yours

ABCFM FEB 5 1904

Erzroom Turkey Jan. 12th. 1904.

Dear Friends:-

We have some very sad news to tell this week. It is that our new school building with its contents was entirely destroyed by fire early Saturday morning. No it was Sunday morning at three o'clock that we were awakened out of our sleep by the knocking at the front door. It was Miss Bushnell and the boarders who live in the school building just opposite our home. The cook had been awakened by some thing. First she said it was a man calling from the street and then she said it was not. But when she awoke she noticed smoke in her room and thro' a hole in the wall she saw that a fire was raging in the ~~wall~~ next room where was kept fuel. At once she went to give the alarm, for the rest in the house slept upstairs in the other part of the building. She had to crawl thro' the smoke up the back stairs and only aroused the rest of the house in time for them to secure a little clothing and to escape from the building. It would seem that the smoke was from the tezek or native fuel which is very obnoxious. Miss Bushnell told the girls to go and dress quickly but the smoke hindered her from doing such a thing so that she left the building without shoes and only a few things she was enabled to pick up from a chair near her bed. At one time she felt almost overcome with the smoke and hid her face in the bundle of clothes she held in her hands so as to free the air she was breathing from the smoke. One of the girls small in stature, who was not so affected by the smoke, came up to her and led her to stairs down which they went to the back door which fortunately was only fastened by an iron bar and not locked as no one had brought the keys from upstairs and to return there was impossible. Ere they got out of the building the flames were bursting out of the windows above the wood and fuel room where the fire originated. When I dressed myself and got out on the street two men were trying to break in the iron gate at the front. But I knew that was impossible and told them to scale the wall. Being the second one over and having the key to the front door I opened it to find that it was impossible to enter the building on account of the smoke. Others attempted it after me but were forced back and our next attention was to rouse the town. I went at once to the church and began ringing the bell but soon the rope caught in the bell and some one had to climb the roof to work the bell. The night watch was not seen, and now says that he had gone to arouse the fire brigrade. But why he did not arouse the occupants of the houses near by first was and is still a mystery unless he was asleep some where and did not wake up till many were around.

It was soon seen that the building would be a total loss for the machine for extinguishing fires in this land is not of the best. When they did get on the spot it seemed as tho' they did nothing except towards the last to prevent the fire from spreading to the next house and this was hard enough work. There was no wind at all which was a blessing for had there been a wind I fear there would have been more houses in the list of damages. As it was only the school and its contents have gone. Few of the girls brought any

Bracoon Turkey Jan. 12th. 1904.

Dear Friends:-

We have some very sad news to tell this week. It is that our new school building with its contents was entirely destroyed by fire early Saturday morning. No it was Sunday morning at three o'clock that we were awakened out of our sleep by the knocking at the front door. It was Miss Buannell and the boarders who live in the school building just opposite our home. The cook had been awakened by some thing. First she said it was a man calling from the street and then she said it was not. But when she woke she noticed smoke in her room and thro a hole in the wall she saw that a fire was raging in the ~~wall~~ next room where was kept fuel. At once she went to give the alarm for the rest in the house slept upstairs in the other part of the building. She had to crawl thro' the smoke up the back stairs and only aroused the rest of the house in time for them to secure a little clothing and to escape from the building. It would seem that the smoke was from the teak or native fuel which is very obnoxious. Miss Buannell told the girls to go and dress quickly but the smoke hindered her from doing such a thing so that she left the building without shoes and only a few things she was enabled to pick up from a chair near her bed. At one time she felt almost overcome with the smoke and hid her face in the bundle of clothes she held in her hands so as to free the air she was breathing from the smoke. One of the girls small in stature who was not so affected by the smoke came up to her and led her to stairs down which they went to the back door which fortunately was only fastened by an iron bar and not locked as no one had brought the keys from upstairs and to return there was impossible. Are they got out of the building the flames were burning out of the windows above the wood and fuel room where the fire originated. When I dressed myself and got out on the street two men were trying to break in the iron gate at the front. But I knew that was impossible and told them to scale the wall. Being the second one over and having the key to the front door I opened it to find that it was impossible to enter the building on account of the smoke. Others attempted it after me but were forced back and our next attention was to rouse the town. I went at once to the church and began ringing the bell but soon the rope caught in the bell and some one had to climb the roof to work the bell. The night watch was not seen and now says that he had gone to arouse the fire brigade. But why he did not arouse the occupants of the houses near by first was and is still a mystery unless he was asleep some where and did not wake up till many were around.

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thing with them. Miss Bushnell was in bare feet while the others had in one instance a shoe, another a rubber, and so on. Beds furniture, the new piano that had just come this year, and the new desks the maps, charts, books, and every thing. Miss Bushnell we are keeping with us, while the girls and teachers have gone up to the orphanage. Our first work is to cloth the girls and give them beds which means quite an out lay to find them just what id needed for the present. We are forwarding the money for this hoping that it will come from many kind friends. The loss on the contents is not far from a thousand liras or four thousand four hundred dollars. We hope to start the school, with very little loss of time, in the Upper Mission House which has been just vacated by the removal of our consulate to Trebizond. But there are no benches, no seats black boards, maps, charts. Fuel we must have for the school. The Boarding department can not be opened just now as all their dishes and other things are gone. But fortunately the orphanage can take care of them for this year till they can start again.

It is not known how the fire originated and the police are investigating. I called upon the Governor General yesterday in company with Mr. Shipley the English consul and he is starting another investigation. It is thought that the origin was from out-side as it is known that our work is not altogether suiting those of the o other church. But it is hard to think of any one doing so diabolical deed as setting fire to a house where there are known to be people sleeping. But I must close for this time as there is no time beforethe post goes.

In haste

Very sincerely yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Will write more for Saturday's post.

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In haste

Very sincerely yours

4 copies

P.C. Insurance

REC'D FEB 3 1904

Erzroom Turkey January 13th. 1904.

REC'D FEB 12 1904

Dear Friends of the E. T. M. :-

Here we come to tell you of the severe loss we have sustained this past week. It occurred at three o'clock on Sunday morning. The cook of the girls' school, formerly the wife of a pastor in this field, was aroused by what she does not know, for at first she said it was someone from the street who awoke her and then she said it was a dream and so on. This cook Goodghad Doodoo was the wife of Ghazarose and four years ago saw her husband and son butchered by the Koords in Alasgerd so that her mind is not always level and her stories do not agree. The fact remains that she was awakened and discovered smoke in the kitchen where she slept. Thro' a cupboard hole in the opposite wall she saw flames and smoke fast rising from the wood and tezek which were stored there. This room with the one above it was not yet floored nor plastered even up to the attic so that it afforded a fine flue for the fire . Well she arose quickly and crawling up the back stairs on account of the smoke from the tezek which was very dense she went into the larger building to awaken Miss Bushnell and the girls. This she did very soon and Miss Bushnell gave orders for the girls to go and dress and went back to her own room to do the same thing. Up to this she had not noticed any smoke in her room but when she arose she had heard a fearful roaring in the attic over her room. But when she went back to her room she found the smoke so dense that she was not able to find any thing except a bundle of clean clothes place on a chair for the morning. In fact she was forced to fight her way to her door covering her face with the bundle of garments so as to give her air free from the smoke to breathe. In the hall she found all the girls ready and some going down but in a similar condition to herself that is with very little on. The smoke was so dense here that at one time she felt as tho' she would fall but guided by one of the smaller girls who did not get so much smoke she made her way down stairs and out thro' the back door which very fortunately was fastened with an iron bar and not locked for no one had brought the keys with them from the upper floor. As Miss Bushnell went out of this door into the back garden she was attracted by the fire that was coming out of the windows of the second story right above the room where the fire started. She was bare footed as were most of the girls. They at once began to arouse the neighbors and came over to our house to arouse us for we live just opposite the school building. We were soon up and saw all the fourteen people in our dining room in anything but attire for a walk out of a winter's night. When I gained the street and made my way to the building two men ran up and began to try and kick in the iron garden gate in front. "Over the wall" I said and was the second over and as I had a key to the front door opened it only to be driven back by the smoke. Others tried to get in but with like results. I now turned my attention to arousing the people and made for the church bell and began to ring it but as the rope was short that is it enters the church door, I was unfortunate in getting the rope fastened somewhere above and a little time was lost ere a man could get up and free the rope so as to

ring the bell again. It did seem a long time before the authorities got round with the little engines and hooks. It looked as tho' their work was to keep the fire from spreading but not to try and put out the fire, nor did the y do much at all . The house next door was very near afire and it was hard work to save it. The great need was water and the men seemed to work so slow. My ten boys or so who carried water from a barrel well in our back garden and this was the supply that save the house next to the school. Upon returning from the church bell ringing I saw that there was little or nothing that I could do at the burning building so I turned my attention to our house and those inside. Fortuneately there was no wind that night except what the fire made but we were tooclose to take any risks I thought with such a fire and so it was arranged that all should go up to the Mission House into a room where a fire had been prepared. Mrs Stapleton had just risen from her bed on the Friday which was the nineth day after the birth of our little daughter Elie May and there was some risk in the step we knew but it was thought best to go. So the child was taken in its carriage just as it was and Mrs Stapleton walked with Miss Bushnell who had been supplied with clothes from Mrs Stapleton's things. The girls of the school followed wrapped in anything they could find in our house. My coats, shoes and every thing came in for use. I remained and gaurded the house at the same time permitting no one I did not know to enter even the yard. At times the soldiers tried it making as tho' they were coming for water water but that was not permitted. Carpets were hung from the roof over the windows and then drenched with water and so all danger was averted.

It is not known how the fire was started but the general belief is that it came from the outside. We have looked into every possible means of an origin from the inside but fail to find one. Two investigations are on foot but it is mostly with the cook I fear whose condition is such as to make her keep the same story for even a day. The garden gate was closed at night by two of the girls whose work it is to see that it is shut. Neighbors declare that it was open when they passed it some four hours later. The cook on the f Sunday declares that a night or two before she had seen two men at night on the roof next to the school yard looking into the premises at rather a late hour.. No girl had been near the room or into it since the daytime. An ash box that stood near the door of room had been emptied just the day before .One girl had emtied her iron into this box but not until she had put out the fire by pouring water on to it and the cook before retiring poured more water on to it. But this was before supper and there was little but dust in the iron. Two girls had been to the kitchen at eight o'clock for Miss Bushnell's bath water. They say there was no fire in the stove and they saw nothing in this hall thro which they passed and where this ash box stood and this was two hours or more after the iron had been emptied.

There were nine girls that night besides the two or three teachers the cook and Miss Bushnell. The girls are in the orphanage were they will stay for this school year. The cook is with some relatives while Miss Bushnell is with us.

We are now busy with making clothes for all these fourteen. One of the boarders will remain in our home to help with the work. Beds and every thing needed for nothing was saved. All the school apparatus with the new desks and the new piano perished.

I at once tellegraphed to Cple and asked them to wire Boston. Then news was sent by wire to Van, Bitlis, Harpoot, Mardin, and to our consulate at Trebizond. On Monday a reply came from Trebizond asking for particulars and telling us to establish the school in the Upper House. There is a family in a part of it while three other rooms are occupied, but there is sufficient room for the school and we hope that very soon after the vacation is over we shall have the school running again. The boarding department can not start for it has nothing whatever. Miss Bushnell and Miss Lord are the heaviest losers as far as the amount goes of the contents altho' all the fourteen lost all they had.

I am sending a vote the round of the Mission to the effect that the Prudential committee be asked to grant Misses Lord and Bushnell at least a new outfit allowence. This in the case of Miss Lord will hardly cover a quarter of her loss while Miss Bushnell had not quite the same. Some twenty five or six liras went down into the ashes. Ten of these have been recovered none the worst for the trip while some other gold was melted. The fire in the walls burned for several days but the walls stood well. Very little will be useable again except the stone. We await news from Boston to which place we wrote by Tuesday's post.

Poor Miss Bushnell keeps recalling something gift or book that has gone. Going over with the list of things in the school and the personal effects of Miss Lord and Miss Bushnell it seems that a careful estimate would place the loss on contents at a thousand liras or four thousand four hundred dollars.

Yes our hearts are filled with sorrow but we are not without hope and expect to start again both school and building. Pray for us that out of this calamity there may come a rich blessing from the Father above upon the work here in this place. The church committe of this place called upon us this afternoon and handed us three liras or thirteen dollars for immediate needs in providing the girls with clothing and shoes. I as treasurer of the station have put at their use in Miss Bushnell's hands forty liras or $186.00 hoping that it will come to us again. If not we will have to find it ourselves. Yours in the Master's service

Robt. A. Stapleton

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P.C.

69

REC'D FEB 24 1904
ANS'D MAR 9 1904

Erzroom Turkey January 30th. 1904.

Dear Friends:-

It is now almost three weeks since the sad calamity took our new Girls' school Building and we have the walls facing us each day as we look thro' our windows.
The investigation set on foot by the police and also by the Governor General has not resulted in establishing anything about the origin of the fire either from within or as coming from without. The Lieutenant Governor had charge of one investigation and I sat with him during the examination of people from whom anything could be learned. But as I said before it was without result except to show that the night-watches on the street were very negligent in their duties. The report of the Lieutenant Governor has not been handed in, so we do not know what his verdict will be. One thing will be gained and that will be to show the people, if it was done from the outside, that the Government does not let such a thing go without looking into it.
Mr Shipley the acting English consul of this place has been very kind and helpful in every thing pertaining to this affair and it was thro' him that the Governor General ordered the special investigation under the lead of his assistant. Further more Mr Shipley has been foremost in starting a subscription for the native teachers and girls who lost nearly all in the fire. The church committee first came with $13.00 , then thro' Mr. Shipley's efforts the Protestant community gave again to the amount of $30.00 Another interpreter , for the money collected from the Protestants was collected by one of our number who is honary interpreter to the British consulate, is soliciting from the Gregorians who are interested in our school. A week ago I gave a magic lantern exhibition in our school and by this means was able to place to the fund another $30.00. The C. E. society for girls in Bitlis have sent a little offering of $5.50 to help their sisters who were in need.

The loss of the contents of the buildings is estimated as follows:-

School furnishings - desks maps, books &c	$818.13
Boarding Department. - Fuel , food utensils	388.74
Personal loss of Boarders and Cook	473.00
Miss Lord - including piano new this year	1180.00
Miss Bushnell with house-keeping	700.00
Total $	3559.87

In regard to the loss on the building it is hard to say. The walls alone are left with scrap iron strewn about. But the walls will have to be pulled down to the first story, as beams, placed in the walls to bind them together, have burned and left hollows in the walls. Last June the estimate made for work and materials in cash was $ 10224.01 and since then we have spent $ 324.10. This estimate does not include a great deal of wood that we got from the old building which was used in the making of door and windows.
The stone cost $ 869.04 and this we have . The lime and brick cost $ 1055.29 and perhaps of this nearly one third will be saved in the wall not needing to be torn down. So adding to the stone bill

whichn was	$ 869.04	the amonut saved in the
lime and brick which is	400.00	it shows that about the
following	1269.04	will be saved towrd the re-
building.		

We understand that all buildings of the Board are insured and we await to hear their orders. If permitted to rebuild we shall make some improvements and add some much needed cupboards and closets. On behalf of the station I remain

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Bursom Turkey January 30th. 1904.

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Bolis

Rec'd FEB 24 1904

Erzroom Turkey January 30th. 1904

Dear Dr. Barton:-

I am sending you a letter with estimates of the loss in the recent fire here which Miss Bushnell and I have made out. It is very hard to estimate such things and the many little things cannot be numbered nor entered into the list. You will see from the items given that a little has been done toward the personal needs of the native teachers and the boarders. Of course we have had to include Miss Bushnell in some of this for she had nothing to wear when she came over to our house.

I might have mentioned in the general letter that we are busy preparing to start the Girls school this coming Monday in the Upper House for the which we have been making desks and seats.

Mr Sullivan our consul in Trebizond assured us of his sympathy and offered any aid that was in his power. But Mr. Shipley of the English consulate is doing so much for us that we hardly need the aid from Trebizond.

By this coming Tuesday you will be receiving my first letter about the fire. As yet we have not heard from Cple. that is not from Mr Peet to whom we sent a telegram which has since been seen in the native paper from the Bible House.

I am glad to say that Mrs Stapleton and our little daughter received ~~any~~ no injury from the forced trip they made that cold morning. The little one is doing finely and Mrs Stapleton is again attending to her duties. Mrs Shipley of the English consulate we are glad to report is fast improving from her long relapse after the first sickness she had. Mrs Stapleton has been attending her and it is a relief to us to have her convalescing.

In regard to conditions here there is not much to say except that the people in the city are fearing from what the results will be this Spring if the agitators should attempt any thing in Sasoun as it is reported thay have in mind. Two parts of our field are on the direct route between Russia and that ilfated province. There is no movement whatever in this city nor in the villages but the latter may be compelled to action by the agitators themselves. Van reports these active down their way so we hardly know what the next three months may bring us.

We are all well at this writing and busy. The Boys' school began this week and is going nicely. For a time we were afraid we were going to lose our pastor here and what was giving us pain was that he was seeking to enter the service of some consulate as a dragoman. We tried to dissuade him but found that we were not altogether successful. But the place he was seeking has been filled so we are safe for a time. It is the old trouble of the one head man who, if he cannot have the things his way, upsets every thing.

By the way if the vote asking for a special out-fit allowance for Miss Lord and Miss Bushnell passes would you please inform Miss Lord who will no doubt see to the buying for Miss Bushnell.

Winter is with us but this year it has been rather mild here. We were very glad we did not need Dr. Ussher when our little one came for it is reported that there is five feet of snow in places between here and Van. With greetings from all.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

REC'D FEB 24 1904

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Fraternally yours

[illegible]

Rec'd FEB 29 1904
Ans'd MAR 9 1904

Erzroom Turkey Feb. 6th. 1904.

Dear Dr Barton :-

Your kind favor of the 11th. of January came to hand yesterday and we were glad to know that there was no mistake in the cable you received from Cple. about our fire. Since that time I have sent you a written account of the fire and then a statment as to the losses sustained. This latter one left here last week. For this week I have to report the Girls' school established in the Upper Mission House working under the difficulty of lack in the line of apparatus. We had some desks and benches made here and so they were enabled to start . Furtherm ore there is to report the receipt of about $60.00 from the city collected thro' the good offices of Mr Shipley the English consul.

Yesterday the post brought the first letter from Mr Peet who sent the news that the building was insured for 1400.00 Lt. but adds th that he fears that was too little to cover the damage and that he had repeatedly sent to the secretary of the Mission for a revised list for this insurance question. I thought that the estimated amounts sent in each December with the inventory of property was taken as the basis. If we are to rebuild then this amount is some $1500.00 short of the damage done. As to the debt. Would it be possible for me to place over to the credit of the Building fund some money left over on the Repairs done to the Boys' school and Upper Mission House after the ~~fire~~ earthquake? If so we could take care of the debt in this way, then only the cost of rebuilding would be before us.

I am following up a clew that has come to me this week. One man it is reported has said that he saw the deed done from the outside but he is afraid of his life if he should tell. I am looking into the matter and if there is anything to what is reported we may call the man out to give his testimony. I think I wrote you that the rent question had been settled by the Consul in Trebizond as he gave us to the end of the month.

In haste.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Paraon Turkey Feb. 6th. 1904.

Dear Dr Barton :-

Your kind favor of the 11th. of January came to hand yesterday and we were glad to know that there was no mistake in the cable you received from Cole. about our fire. Since that time I have sent you a written account of the fire and then a statement as to the losses sustained. The latter one left here last week. For this week I have to report the Girls' school established in the Upper Mission House working under the difficulty of lack in the line of apparatus. We had some desks and benches made here and so they were enabled to start . Furthermore one thing is to report the receipt of about $60.00 from the city collected thro the good offices of Mr Shipley the English consul.

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Erzroom Turkey March 5th. 1904.

Mar. 28
REC'D APR 1 1904
ANS'D APR 14 1904

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Your favor of Feb. 12th. came to hand yesterday and we are glad to think that our report reached you in good time. I think that you have also had a copy in which I speak of the losses on the building written some time ago. If you did not get it you might write the Miss Wingate W.B.M.I. to whom also we sent a copy. We have heard from them and it did our hearts good to see the way they were going at things. For we have to admit that we feel as tho' we had been rather badly treated by them inn the past but it may be that in the future they will do better. We live in hopes. No we do not wish this complaint to go to them but we mention it to show what reason we have for rejoicing.

The investigations set on foot at first have stopped and it would seem as tho' they had given their verdict that the fire was caused by the carelessness on the part of some person or per - sons from the inside. This news comes from the consul in Trebizond who says he is of the same opinion, since for sooth "these in author- ity "say so. Perhaps it would be well to send you his letter to us or a copy and also a copy of the answer I sent back. I feel it is almost useless to expect any help from him there at Trebizond. Mr Shipley the acting English consul here has been of great help to us, but he feels that he cannot do more unless he is authorized to do so. I asked for such recognization but as yet it has not come altho' Mr Sullivan says it has been referred to the Department. We were given to understand from Mr Dickenson in Cple. that such action would not be required, that is, not before the man might act for us.

Since the investigation referred to above, there is a man who says that he knows something about the fire for he and his wife saw from their window which looks on to a garden at the back of our premises. His sister told me that he said he saw men put

fire into the building. The man was sick at the time but is now well and round and says he is ready to relate what he saw when the time comes but not before. I have offered a reward of $20.00 for such information. But we feel that we vannot do anything till we have some one with authority behind us.

To-day we are buying some wood to put into the walls to secure them from falling until we can get permission to rebuild. As yet we do not know whether we can get that permission easily and it may be that Mr Sullivan will say we will have to follow the law which will mean a long delay. I wish he would write me about it and perhaps I will hear from him this next week. Not that we wish to break the law but for the hauter of some one the Vali might give us the permission overlooking somethings. I feel like trying it even without the consul's aid. At anyn rate we might take sound ings to see where we stand with this offical. Just now Mrs Stapleto is paying professional visits to the Governor's and it might be a good thing to try it now. But I will wait for another week.

We are having nice weather just now and I shall try to save what walls can be saved before the rains come and damage them more I wonder if I shall not have to have the power of attorney to act for Mr Chambers in the selling the Erzingan house for the paper is in his name. I have already sent word for the sale that is for our man to receive the bids for it.

Glad we are to report that our little Ellie May is doing nice ly and growing each day. Greetings from us all to you and Mrs Barto

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

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ly and growing each day.

Cayuga, Mar. 8, 1904.

No. 40.

Consulate of the United States.
Trebizond February 18th. 1904.

Rev. Robert S. Stapleton:-

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 13th. inst. to hand and contents carefully noted.

We are pleased to know you are earnestly at work in your investigations. We are however of opinion(and that opinion is shared by others in authority) that the fire was not of an incendiary origin, but due to carelessness on the part of some person or persons in the building. We should be glad however to have our minds disabused of this idea, but from what particulars and information at our disposal we cannot arrive at anyn other conclusion. This should not prevent your carrying out your investigations, and unnecessary to say we stand ready to alter our views if the facts will warrant it.

Suspicion is all well as far as it goes, but must be supported by positive proofs otherwise we cannot assume a position which may have far-reaching consequences, and do more harm than good. It is of course a difficult matter to ferret out positive evidence, but you will readily understand we cannot offically take any action without such evidence.

We are always ready to assist you.

Mr. Ojalvo's suspicions were communicated to you without any proof to sustain them and were his personal ideas.

It is perhaps proper to say that they were given to you in confidence and the utmost care should be taken in using the name of an official who represents another nation, and should it come to the knowledge of his government that suspicion rests on him/ for such a serious crime naturally their dignity and sense of justice would be aroused and it may lead to very serious consequences.

Respecting the Recognition of the acting British Consul to act for American interests, the matter has been referred to the department of State and until their consent is obtained we are powerless in the matter.

We are grateful to acting Consul Shipley for his kindness and beg you will convey to him our appreciation.

Referring to the permit for rebuilding the school it has our attention and we will advise you in due course.

Your's very truly

P.S. Kindly send us the old and new permits, I would suggest you have them registered

Copy of letter from Mr Edward J. Sullivan
U.S. Consul
Trebizond Turkey

Copy
Reply to #40

Erzroom Turkey February 27th. 1904.

Hon. Edward J/ Sullivan.
United States Consul
Trebizond Turkey.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 18th. inst. came to hand this week. It would seem as tho' our letter of the 13th. inst. was misunderstood and perhaps the fault lies with us in not making ourselves clearer. It was not the intention to ask the action of the consulate upon any thing as yet, certainly not upon mere suspicion. What we did mean to ask was for some one to represent us before the authorities here.

We do realize that the fact, suggested in our letter of the 13th. inst, which fact is affirmed by others, makes the case a very delicate one so much so, that if this fact is verified, it will bring up a question that will not be settled short of Constantinople. But before the matter can be taken there it is necessary to have positive proof substantiated by some representative of our own Government. Nor is it possible to compell the true testimony unless we are aided by some such authority, for those who know, speak with great reluctance as they are afraid of devulging anything.

In such a case we understand that we may not approach the authorities here, whose greatest desire is to show that the fire originated in the carelessness on the part of some person or persons inside the building. It does not appear that the authorities have any evidence to show that their verdict is the right one except perhaps their wish, which may be aided by the desire not to touch the other delicate question.

Tho' we had "carte blanche" as regards to Mr. Ojalvo's suspicions in his favor of the 2nd. inst, yet so serious did we deem the affair that beyond Mr Shipley no one outside of our circle heard

The Burning of Girls' Schools -

Erzroum, Turkey -

Received March 1904

of it, not even the Lieutenant Governor whom Mr. Ojalvo mentioned. But as Touching his suspicions Mr Ojalvo is not alone with them for others who have been in posistions to know the situation are of the same opinion.

One cannot accuse the authorities of being over jealous in their investigations and we feel that they do not care a rap for it unless the matter be pushed by some one with authority behind them. Until we are so represented, we feel that it would useless to try to ferret out any thing and so until that time comes we shall be unable to disabuse your mind of the conclusion which youh have reached regarding the origin of the fire.

We are glad to know that the matter of the consular agency for this place is under consideration and hope we mayn soon hear from it, for the longer this work is delayed the harder it will be. Permit us to thank you for your interest in this matter. In sending copies of these letters to Boston to our Board I will urge them to aid if possible in this matter.

I extended to Mr. Shipley your greetings and appreciation for the help he has rendered us thus far.

The permits spoken of in your post script I take to be those for the schools as institutionsand not the permit to build the building . So I send you those pertaining to the Girls' school. There are three but two have been annuled and the three combined in the one.

As to the permit for rebuilding. I might say that there will be little wall if any to rebuild and the most of the work will be the wood work and the roof. I am about to replace some of the wood in the walls over the doors and windows. This is necessay for the safety of people passing along the strets.

Very truly yours.

Robt. S Stapleton

Erzroom Turkey April 2nd. 1904.

Ans'd JUN 9 1904

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Your favor of the 9th. inst came to hand this morning and its contents carefully noted. Already are we at work in preparation for the rebuilding of the school. We shall do our best to bring the bills within the amount specified in your letter altho' it will be running it rather close . We have not done any thing more in hunting the cause of the fire since we felt nothing could be done till we are represented here, that is, have a consular agent here. But now we fear it will be too late to raise the question as so much time has gone by. The feeling with us that it started outside does not subside notwithstanding the idea that some have, that it resulted from the contents of the irons being emptied into the wood box. As I have written before Mr Sullivan our consul in Trebizond is of the above opinion, that is, that the origin of the fire must be laid at the door of those inside the house so we could hope for little help there to push any other idea. Speaking about the consular agent here we are afraid that it is to be placed in the hands of an Armenian here and yet we do not know. If it is so, we shall be humiliated indeed, but we will wait till we are informed from head quarters. It would appear that the American interests in this land are largely the trade that can be created and if this Armenian is appointed it will be with that in mind and we shall be in the second place. A note from Mr Ojalvo the interpreter this morning says one is to be appointed and if it were not his friend here we feel sure he would have said.

Here we are on the eve of Easter as far as your date is taken. We would enjoy a good English service to-morrow but there are no o-thers out-side our family. The native church will obesserve the communion season a week later when we shall join with them. I was wishing to get away to a visit of the church in Erzingan and that reigon but with the building on my hands again any visit will be curtailed this season and they are needing a visit very much. We rejoice to hear that Van is to hand a new family this year. We begin to feel our hopes rise again as concerns this station and field. The ladiss are at work trying to get another one to help them in their work and if some of the blessings that are coming be induced to stop here we shall feel that we are not forgotten. We scan each paper to see if there is any such news for us.

Again the tide is starting for the Pacific slope and we do not know just how many we are to lose this year. Others, hearing of the welfare of those there, are anxious to go so we are at work to prepare the material that will some day be made over into American citizenship.

Things about this center are quiter and to the South of us it is similarly reported. Yes there was great fear among the people for the result of what might happen to the south if the agitators were not restrained or turned aside somehow. Now the people are breathing freeer. Glad we are to report all well here and the work going on as usual. The attic of the Boys' school makes a fine work shop where some seventeen men are preparing the windows and doors for the burnt building. We shall report progress as time passes. Greetings from one and all tou you and Mrs Barton.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Rec'd MAY 11 1904 76

Erzroom Turkey April 23rd. 1904.

Ans'd JUN 9 1904

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Your favor of the 29th. ult. came to hand by the last post. We were pleased to note that the W.B.M.I. has voted Miss Bushnell the full refit allowance.

In regard to the second item of your letter there is no further news and in fact it is to be feared that it is too late to try and unearth anything now, I think I have written you about it before, that is about the fact that there is a man here who has said, or so his own cousin reports, that he saw some one put fire into the building from the garden at the back of the school. You will see from my reply to Mr Sullivan's note of Feb. 18th., of which I have sent you copies both of the note and the answer, that there I told Mr Sullivan it would be useless to try and ferret out any thing without the aid of an offical or some one with authority to back us. So we have not done anything further. We have been waiting to see if we were to have an agent. But as yet there is no news. A week or so back I wrote you giving voice to a fear that came to us that we were to be given a native. It might seem as tho' this fear has no foundation at all. Mr Ojalvo writes me this week" As for who will be the agent I cannot tell, but probably it will be the British Consul, or there may be created a consulate to take charge of Erzroom, Van and Bitlis. This is strictly private". We shall rejoice if either of these take place for we do not fancy the man at Trebizond from what we hear. We learn that Mr. Crawford has got into his bad books, doubtless in an accidental manner, without doubt arising from the little animosity between the British consulate and that of the United States there at Trebizond of the which Mr Crawford was ignorant I am sure.

Glad we are to be able to report all well at this station and the work for the new building

progressing finely. We hope that the time for storm and f frost is soon to be past so that we may safely use mortar without danger of it freezing. This may seem strange, but last Saturday ni night we had such a storm and cold that some six or more people lost their lives while going home from Erzingan which is one of our out-stations and a city much warmer than this our elevation.

By chance the other day I ran across the estimates made out for this station ten years ago and it throws some light upon the attitude towards us of the present Mission thro' out the field. When we see the amount of money put down for the native workers for this and that aid, for their travelling expenses, for grants in aid, for their wives acting as Bible women and perhaps doing no more than the wife of any pastor does at home, or what a church member ought to do for the work. we wonder not that many have been enable to leave the work and seek a new home in America. One would hardly recognize the place again from the estimates then and now. One thing it has taught Miss Bushnell and that is she is going to ask for aid in preparing teachers especially for the High school work for ten years ago such aid was given.

The tide of emmigration has started and others are preparing to come. There is a girl in our home whom we engaged to a fine young fellow who is now on his way to the coast for the woods of Canada. I am trying to get the pastor here and the young men's society to follow their members who go out in this way and to help them in getting into church fellowship where they go.

With best greetings to you and Mrs Barton in which we all as a circle unite.

fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

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With best greetings to you and Mrs
a circle write.

Yours

REC'D MAY 31 1904

Erzroom Turkey May 7th. 1904.

ANS'D JUN 9 1904

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Your favor of the 15th. of April came to hand yesterday. I think that in a former letter to you it was stated that all we asked of the consul, Mr. Sullivan, was for some authority to push the investigation. But now we are of the opinion it is too late to do any thing about it,

In regard to the permit to rebuild, Mr. Sullivan suggested that while we were waiting for instructions from him regarding the matter of permit we might be working on the building from time to time and this we are doing, the only let up there is in the work is on Sundays and at night. To-day we are ready to put the attic beams in and then next week come the roof timbers. This is being done without any further word from the authorities here.

We are working on the assumption that the old permit is good yet as the building was not finished when burnt. The windows and doors are now ready and so the work will go ahead and we hope to be in the building by Fall.

We shall try and write Miss Lord as to the full amount needed to complete the building as she and Miss Bushnell have planned it. Work is a little cheaper this year and it seems as tho' we are paying a little less for wood. Altho' the wood inside the walls was in some places burnt we annaged to replace it without tearing so much down as it was thought we would at first. So with the insurance we have we hope to make the entire building uasable but not to complete it .

And now just a word in regard to the other work here. I think my letters have informed you that the pastor here has felt a good deal discouraged because of the attitude of the head man of the community and he is leaving the church. He is looking forward to a church in America somewhere and will doubtless

go ere the Summer is far advanced. He has notified his committee of his intentions and then we shall be without a pastor here. The man from Erzingan would be a good worker for this place but the one man would be opposed to him and the others follow his lead.

We had a sad accident here which took place in our school yard last week. A son of our colporture to be was playing with a big saw horse that had been left there by the sawyers. He had a st string tied to it . He fell as he was pulling it and the thing fell upon him crushing his head which came between the wood and a large stone. He died in a few hours. We can hardly say it was in connection with the building. The boy had no business in the yard as he was not a scholar nor was there school on that day.

We are all well here and in the city quiet seems to reign altho' there is a good deal of fear among the Armenians because of some talk among the ruling class, as a result of the agitators actions and efforts in the province South , which district is much nearer to Mr Cole that to us here.

Many people from that province as well as from here are leaving for Fresno and intervening points. I see there is a frieght and passenger steamers that calls at Trebizond once a month for New York. So those whose papers are straight can go direct for ten liras steerage.

All unite in the best of greetings to you and Mrs Barton.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

So are the Summer is far advanced. He has notified his committee of his intention and then we shall be without a pastor here. The man from Dunington would be a good worker for this place but the majority would be opposed to him and the others fear by his land.

We had a sad accident here which took place in our school yard last week. A son of our postmaster to be was playing with a big saw horse that had been left there by the sawyers. He had a string tied to it . He fell as he was pulling it and the thing fell upon him crushing his head which came between the wood and a large stone. He died in a few hours. We can hardly say it was in connection with the building. The boy had no business in the yard as he was not a scholar nor was there school on that day.

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Many people from that province as well as from here are looking for Passes and intervening points.I see there is a freight and passenger steamers calls at Pozzuoli and once a month for New York. So those whose papers are straight can go direct for the lines steamers.

All write in the best of greetings to you and Mrs Dane too.

Heartfelt yours

Erzroom Turkey July 14th. 1904.

Rec'd AUG 8 1904

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Your last favor to me reached me just ~~[illegible]~~ AUG 29 1904 we were in the midst of our examinations which ~~for~~ this year are past and we as a circle with our Bitlis friends and some forty-five orphans are out at tents where all are enjoying the fresh air and some the rest. Dr. Underwood and I come in nearly every day he for his clinics and I to look after the building.

Last week at the graduation exercises of the Girls' school, at which time three girls received diplomas, we gave our musical which has now become an established part of the school closing program. All the examinations were well attended and the closing musical had the full number present both of Europeans as well as the native friends. This coming year all being well we hope to have the first graduating class of the Boys' school for many years. One of the young men who has come within a year of going thro' school or graduating feels that he desires to go to college and I suspose he will succeed even tho' he may need help from the college to live. It is seldom they ask the missionaries of the place from whence they come as to their character and other matters. He desired my command to go but I told him that until he had finished the course here I could not help him nor recommend him as he was seeking aid to do it. In an angry moment he replied and "this is my reward for teaching your school", a thing he has done this past year altho' it needed a great deal of forcing to get him there in the village and we had thought that if he once took up the work even for a year he might have a change of heart and spirit, but we are saddened at the result to find him just the same. He cares not to live with his own people, for he was with his mother who has married again. One of our girls graduates went into the next village to the one in which he was

and seemed thankful that she was able to teach the school and so give some returns for her schooling she had received thro' the orphanage and school. But this young man tho' the son of a pastor and tho' he has received a great deal from us ~~and~~ now show his ingratitude thus. If there is anything I wish to teach these young men it is self respect and an independent spirit which will be shown in a desire to do something themselves. Another of our big orphans a boy, is being put to the test this Summer and I fear he is failing under it.

As I wrote you before our pastor here has left us and the church committee has asked me to look after the pulpit. In reply I suggested that they pay something to those who would from time to time preach not including myself. This I did for at times they are inclined to be satidfied with such pastoral work if they do not have to pay for it. But now they are at work for a new man. The one from Marsovan has been approached by them as he is leaving the church there. We hope he will come and take up the work here.

Yes we are thankful that our fears regarding the consular agent here have not be realized. The English consul has been asked to use his influence in our interests when anything should arise. The one who is acting just now is very genial and we enjoy having such a one. He with his wife are camping just two minutes from us and this makes the tent life this year very pleasant. Just now a Mr Lamberto Vanoutelli an Italian subjest is visiting them and so we meet him. He has an American wife and seems to be acquainted with Miss Fensham of Cple. We do not often see visitors from the outside world and so when one does come and he is decent we do what we can to make it pleasant for him. This coming week we hope to have all our reports ready for you. With best of greetings to you and Mrs Barton I remain Yours fraternally Robt. S. Stapleton

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Yours fraternally

79

Erzroom Turkey, July 19th. 1904.

Rec'd AUG 11 1904
Ans'd AUG 29 1904

Dear Dr. Barton:-

There were two items that were forgotten in my letter sent last Saturday. One was the state of affairs here. For the city I can say that all seems quiet altho' some of the people seem to have great fear of what might happen and in large measure they are right. But if anything does come to them, it will be brought on by their own people thro' their foolishness in making efforts to attract the eye of Europe to them in the vain desire that at some time they may again have a government of their own. You see the Russian boundary is the limit of this province and across this frontier bands of agitators are continually attempting to cross. A month ago some forty or more did get across and only five got back alive. This last week another band of fifty came only to be sent back. A few days later another attempt was made and these are resisting the soldiers who are attacking them. The reports from the province to the South of us is that for the time being it is over and the soldiers from this way are returning to their head quarters at Erzingan. But the coming of these freshn agitators from across the border means that those outside of the land do not mean to let the thing rest. I see from a Harpoot letter this morning that Consul Norton has been ordered to go to Moush + Bitlis and by this time he is doubtless there but the thing there is doubtless over. The Bitlis English vice consul who has been at Moush for some weeks has now been ordered back to Bitlis. The cause for this last move, is the burning of the market of that place last Friday. This it is said was an ac-

cident but more than half they say of the shops were burnt down and it is reported that a great deal of plundering was done, but no loss of life is reported. This came here by telegram this Sabbath day. The agitators have being threating such a move as this for some time but it is not certain that the fire was their work at all.

We, that is the circle here, are out at camp with the Underwoods and the open air is doing the children of the later a great deal of good.

We can see here how Mrs Underwood is affected by the bad news which comes at times from the seat of disturbances-her home. But it is hard to imagine what her state must be when she is in the town that is having such rumors all the time.

I wonder if I told you about the two boxes that some one Mr Bailey in Manchester England was sending us. In one was a piano and at first we were elated by the thought, but, oh my/. It came to-day and I really do not know what to do with it for I am sure we can never use it at all. In fact it is not worth a tenth of what it will cost us to have it drought here and the other things in the box tho' nice in themselves are of very little use to us. Of course the English Bibles and some of the story books and cards we can use but it does not seem to me that they are worth a fraction of the expense of bringing them here. I am glad that Miss Bushnell has the duty of giving thanks for all these blessings for I fear I could not be truthful and do it.

As regards the building I am glad to say that the work is going along nicely. Altho' with the insurance money we shall do more than was done before because labor and things are somewhat cheaper

yet we shall not be able to finish the building completely with that amount and when we get to our limit I shall stop and wait for more. To-day the carpenters are putting the roof boards on and as soon as the roofing material gets here we shall push a-head.

We are glad to report that Dr. Underwoods children are improving very much here and the out door life is doing them much good. Also our two little girls are keeping well and showing the benefit of the camp life. . We have not heard as yet in reply to our vote regarding Miss Foote's coming here. It hardly seems as tho' there could be any question about it since the W.B.M.I. have signified their willingness..

With best of greetings to you and Mrs Barton from my wife and myself I remain

fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

The piano is indeed an "antiquar" worth more in London where it is almost useless.

80

REC'D AUG 31 1904

Erzroom Turkey August 9th. 1904.

ANS'D AUG 31 1904

Dear Dr. Barton:-

By to-day's post we are sending you our reports for the year. That is the one from my pen is for the General work of the American Board while that of Miss Bushnell is for the Girls' school and for Woman's work in general. The copy of the last is for you as Miss Bushnell has also sent a copy to the W.B.M.I. by this same post. By the post on this coming Saturday we will try and send you the estimates and the tabular view. We trust this will not be too late for your report this year .

Glad we are to report progress on the school building. Just now while preparing to write this letter the man has been in to talk over the contract for the plastering work. We will first see how much plaster it takes for certain rooms and if it comes within our means we will have the entire done now, if it is to exceed the sum we will leave the halls for some future time.

By the time this reaches you we expect that Miss Lord will be started back for this land and city. This means a trip for me to the coast after which I hope to go the rounds of the churches. It may be that Miss Bushnell will accompany me in this tour as she is now planning. But as we have said in the report there is need of another man here who could give more of his time to the touring or to look after the work here and to let me go touring more.

With greetings from us all as a circle all of whom I am glad to say are well at this writing.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Harpoon Turkey August 9th. 1904.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

By to-day's post we are sending you our reports for the year. That is the one from my pen is for the general work of the American Board while that of Miss Bushnell is for the girls school and for Woman's work in general. The copy of the last is for you as Miss Bushnell has also sent a copy to the W.B.M.I. by this same post. By the post on this coming Saturday we will try and send you the estimates and the tabular view. We trust this will not be too late for your report this year.

Glad we are to report progress on the school building. Just now while preparing to write this letter the man has been in to talk over the contract for the plastering work. We will first see how much plaster it takes for certain rooms and if it comes within our means we will have the entire done now, if it is to exceed the sum we will leave the halls for some future time.

By the time this reaches you we expect that Miss Lord will be started back for this land and city. This means a trip for me to the coast after which I hope to go the rounds of the churches. It may be that Miss Bushnell will accompany me in this tour as she is now planning. But as we have said in the report there is need of another man here who could give more of his time to the touring or to look after the work here and to let me go touring more.

With greetings from us all as a circle all of whom I am glad to say are well at this writing.

Fraternally yours

Received Aug 9 1904

81.

Rec'd AUG 22 1904

Ans'd AUG 29 1904

Erzroom Turkey July 30th. 1904.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

We are busy on our reports and hope to have them ready for you in a few days. But here is a question comes up that needs immediately to be seen to. In your favor of March 29th to me after reporting the vote of the W.B.M.I. granting Miss Bushnell an appropriation for a new outfit you say" On the return of Miss Lord the same outfit will undoubtedly be voted her". Upon her call at the rooms the last of June or the beginning of July nothing was said to her by the secretary of the W.B.M. or by you about this matter. I am hoping that the question was settled upon her second visit about now. If not could you favor us by bringing the question to the notice of the Board. In the fire she lost all her furniture and books(most of the furniture being from her own home). The piano she lost has been replaced by the gift from her cousins but other that ~~that~~ there is nothing here of hers.
I and the circle sincerely hope that this reminder will not be necessary but when we heard that nothing was said when she was in Boston we immediately decided to write you.

At last our Summer has come and the rainy season that has come to this land this year has stopped for a while.

No new developements in the political questions touching this province. We are resting under the tents as far as the new buildin going on in the city. Greetings from our circle to you and Mrs Barton.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

July 30 - 1904

Brandon Tuesday July 30th. 1904.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

We are busy on our reports and hope to have them ready for you in a few days. But here is a question comes up that needs immediately to be seen to. In your favor of March 2 th. to me after reporting the vote of the W.B.M.I. granting Miss Bush well an appropriation for a new outfit you say" On the return of Miss Lord the same outfit will undoubtedly be voted her". Upon her call at the rooms the last of June or the beginning of July nothing was said to her by the secretary of the W.B.M. or by you about this matter. I am hoping that the question was settled upon her second visit about now. If not could you favor us by bringing the question to the notice of the Board. In the fire she lost all her furniture and books most of the furniture being from her own home. The piano she lost has been replaced by the gift from her coming but other that that there is nothing here of here.

I and the circle sincerely hope that this reminder will not be necessary but when we heard that nothing was said when she was in Boston we immediately decided to write you.

At last our Summer has come and the rainy season that has come to this land this year has stopped for a while.

No new developments in the political questions touching this province. We are resting under the tents as far as the new building going on in the city. Greetings from our circle to you and Mrs Barton.

Fraternally yours

42

Rec'd AUG 31 1904

Erzroom Turkey August 13th. 1904.

Ans'd AUG 31 1904

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Just a line to accompany the estimates which are enclosed. You will see that those made out by Miss Bushnell are enclosed here; please to forward them to Chicago as soon as you have looked at them. The tabular view is not ready yet but will be for the next post.

By the way our consul here tells me that the port of Bartoum is under quarenteen that is travellers going thro' there are subject to delay upon entering this country. Just how long this is likely to last or the cause for it I do not know. But it might make a difference with Mr and Mrs Yarrows if he knew it. I sent the word to Van and suggested that they might come this way and then have Dr. Underwood take them on to Van by this route and then go on to Bitlis with Miss Cole as he is planning, but go on from there. We would very much like to have Dr Raynolds visit us here, as he is the one is seems delegated to meet these friends if he or they come by the Russian route. But we do not wish to bring him over the road here. I leave them to plan as they think best.

Greetings from all our circle.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

BOS AUG 31 1904

Erzroom Turkey August 13th. 1904.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Just a line to accompany the estimates which are enclosed. You will see that those made out by Miss Bushnell are enclosed here please to forward them to Chicago as soon as you have looked at them. The tabular view is not ready yet but will be for the next post.

By the way our consul here tells me that the port of Bartoum is under quarantine that is travellers going thro' there are subject to delay upon entering this country. Just how long this is likely to last or the cause for it I do not know. But it might make a difference with Mr and Mrs Yarrows if he knew it. I sent the word to Van and suggested that they might come this way and then have Dr. Underwood take them on to Van by this route and then go on to Bitlis with Miss Cole as he is planning but go on from there. We would very much like to have Dr Raymolds visit us here as he is the one is seems delegated to meet these friends if he or they come by the Russian route. But we do not wish to bring him over the road here. I leave them to plan as they think best. Greetings from all our circle.

Fraternally yours

Rec'd Aug 13, 1904

Rec'd SEP 13 1904
Ans'd SEP 22 1904

83

Erzroom Turkey August 20th. 1904.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Here comes the long waited for Tabular view. I trust it is not too late for your report. It is very difficult to get the required data from Russia but this Autumn this plan will be tried viz, to pay the expenses of Bad. Hovhannes Kalcustian to visit in person the entire field and have him send us his account in piece-meal and then we can put it to-gether. This has been their fear in times past that if they sent in a report it might be misunderstood by the authorities there and so get him into trouble.

Glad we were to hear from ~~the~~ this post by Dr. Underwood. All I am, please to say are well. Dr. Underwood has had the French consul as a typhoid patient and he has so far regained as to be able to come out to the tents to be under the care of Mr Shipley the English consul who has been caring for him half the time while in the city. Rumors still keep coming from Bitlis of the fear and also the cause of the fear for the agitator is not quiet at all.

I see that the Van friends are planning to have their new colleagues come thro' Erzroom and then to have Dr. Underwood take them on to Van. We shall be glad to see them here.

We shall not forget the Annual meeting of the Board and pray that it may result in some recruits for this Mission so as to aid some of the needy stations. Greetings from us all to you and Mrs Barton.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Erzroom, Turkey

Erzroom Turkey August 20th. 1904.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Here comes the long waited for Tabriz view. I trust it is not too late for your report. It is very difficult to get the required data from Russia but this Autumn this plan will be tried viz, to pay the expenses of Rad. Hovhannes Kalousdian to visit in person the entire field and have him send us his account in piece-meal and then we can put it to-gether. This has been their fear in times past that if they sent in a report it might be misunderstood by the authorities there and so get him in-to trouble.

Glad we were to hear from you this past by Dr. Underwood. All I am, please to say are well. Dr. Underwood has had the French consul as a typhoid patient and he has so far regained as to be able to come out to the tents to be under the care of Mr Shipley the British consul who has been caring for him half the time while in the city. Rumors still keep coming from Bitlis of the fear and al-so the cause of the fear for the agitator is not quiet at all.

I see that the Van friends are planning to have their new colleagues come thro' Erzroom and then to have Dr. Underwood take them on to Van. We shall be glad to see them here.

We shall not forget the Annual meeting of the Board and pray that it may result in some recruits for this Mission so as to aid

Erzroom, Turkey
Aug 20 - 1904

Rec'd SEP 19 1904

Ans'd SEP 22 1904

Erzroom Turkey August 30th. 1904.

Dear Friends:-

It was the beginning of this year that saw the destruction of the Girls' School new building which we firmly believe to have been caused by persons from the outside. The rebuilding of this structure is not quite completed when we are met by another calamity which takes from us the Boys' School building. This took place this last Saturday August 27th. The origin of this fire appears to be accidental.

The Missionary circle were at their tents about one hour from the city from which spot we can see the higher part of the city. In the various buildings during our absence there are people staying to guard the place and to shield from accidents if possible. From the tents, there is hardly a day passes that I do not come to the city to look after the work on the new building and I was preparing to come last Saturday morning when looking toward the city a column of smoke was seen rising from our quarter of the city and I began to fear what its cause was. The fact that the day before was the Persian Shah's birthday and that night the Persians, whose consulate is right behind our new building, were celebrating with fire works did but add to my fear at the cause of the smoke. All thro' the night some six extra men were keeping watch in the new building and they had to extinguish several burning rockets which came from that direction. We have occassion to think that these people do not love us nor our work and so we were the more careful. But the night passed without any thing occuring. The tailor and shoemaker had come and opened the shop in the lower story of the Boys' School building. Our buyer and overseer of the orphanage had been up to the second story into the book room and had then gone into the market without finding anything like burning in the building. The resident teacher with his family had just finished their breakfast and while the father was preparing for Sunday preaching his little boy or the two of them went out of the room and soon afterwards was heard crying. The parents going out saw him coming down the attic stairs pointing up to the upper story where the fire had started. The little fellow's hand and ear were burnt and he was crying on account of the pain. The alarm was at once given but it was some time before the fire brigade arrived with the few things they have for such emergencies. People began to see the smoke from the outside and at once began to gather. The doors on the first floor were soon burst open and the contents of the entire floor were saved including maps, the school books, benches, organ and some things that had just arrived from America which were in the big school room./ The shoe and tailor shop was soon stripped of its contents as well as the store room the next door. But the fire spread so rapidly that excepting the contents of the teacher's room nothing of the contents of the second floor was saved. Here was the book room where there was an extra large stock of Bibles as well as the books belong to the station here, that is Mission books. This room was being fitted up as a reading room for this coming winter and here were some of the advanced books of the Boys' school. In another room on this floor were Dr. Underwood's medical

instruments with two or three beds which the Doctor had fitted up for his patients after the operations. The rest of these rooms were empty except a cupboard in one room in which the orphans, who are out at tents with us, had their best things. The attic, where the fire started, had been a work shop where the doors and windows of the new school building were made. But now it was being emptied. The empty boxes which had lately coming from America were placed there with their excelsior packing. Two days ago these boxes were brought out to be used as lathing in the new building. The excelsior was to be put in sacks, but I am not sure that this was done and the general opinion was that the boy or boys of the teacher's were playing fire with this. The attic door was supposed to be locked and only a week ago the overseer receive a scolding because he had become careless about it since the key was lost. A habit of this country of both big and little is not to tell if any thing is lost or broken as in this case and you can find out yourself. Another key was found by which the door might be locked. When the workmen were there, there was hardly a day passed that I did not ask or see that the door was locked and the shavings cleaned up. I had told the overseer that the door must be kept locked but as most of the things were gone, it would seem that he had become neglectful about it. The teacher's two boys it appears have been in the habit of going up there. The older of the two is four and his brother something over two years. It was the younger one who was burnt. How he was burnt his parents do not know for they did not see him till afterwards, that is after he was burnt. Dr. Underwood said that the burns did not look like that caused from falling embers as the parents at first said. The opinion of not only the investigating police, but of Mr Shipley the British consul and our entire circle is that the circumstances go to show that the boy or the boys in some way must have set the fire there. The number of serious accidents from fire and boiling water to the little ones of this land shows that there is not the care with the little ones on the part of the parents as there should be.

Another loss, I was forgetting, is of all the doors of the new building which were being stored there in the attic. We were just about to put these in place this week and here we have to buy wood in the timber or raw material and work it up into doors so that in two weeks the rooms of the new building will be ready.

The boys' school will at once move up into the Upper Mission House, from which we shall have to drive the girls' school rather earlier than we thought into the new building. The boy orphans will also be placed there and so there will be no break in the school year. How fortunate it was we had not brought the boys back last week as we had planned in the beginning. They have their beds and most of their clothing. The walls with the exception of the facade being put up in mud fell as the fire advanced. But the facade with a little of the side walls still stands. When I reached the scene there was nothing to be done except to prevent the fire from spreading to other buildings. The wind was away from the new building and so there was no danger to that.

#3. Fire. Erzroom.

The building thus destroyed was built something like twenty-four years ago. During the earthquake of November 1901 it was so damaged that it was necessary to take the earth roof off and the side walls down for two metres or more.

The losses in this fire besides the building which we believe was insured are as follows:-

Underwoods'	Medical instruments and room furnishings	$ 400.00
	Bibles of the American Bible Society.	600.00
	Mission books in book-room	145.77
	School books Orphanage	100.00
	Books, personal R.S.Stapleton	50.00
	Clothing Orphanage	75.00
	Doors and wood Girls' school Building	200.00
		$ 1570.77

One thing has been forced upon us as we have watched and helped the brigade. fighting fire is that we had better provide our own fire brigade and water supply on the school premises.

Sad indeed our hearts are at this the second calamity by fire this year but we trust in Him Who will bring a blessing out of these losses to us. The work of cleaning up the stone on street and alley will have to be done at once and we trust that we can begin our preparations for rebuilding during this winter season. Thankful we are that no live was lost as also that we are certain that this was not done in animosity against us or our work. On behalf of the station I remain;

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Correspondence Tientsin
Aug 30 - 1904

85

Rec'd OCT 13 1904

Erzroom Turkey Sept. 20th. 1904.

Ans'd OCT 25 1904

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Just a line to acknowledge your favor of Aug 30th, which came to hand this morning. I trust you have received the report as to the fire. Since that time the facade of the building fell in with a mighty roar but thankful are we that no one was hurt at the time. The picture in the clipping the friends here recognize ~~here~~ as that of myself and this they do from the hat.

Last week our Boys' school opened in the Upper Mission House with some new scholars from the city here who enter the upper school. This week the Girls' school has started in the lower rooms of the new building. The roofing from America has reached here and we are hard at work putting it in place. Up to this we have had no rain and so we risked plastering the walls as well as the ceilings of the lower rooms. Another week or so will see the roof on, the ceilings all plastered and before I start for Trebizond-for the ladies coming here-we hope to see all the work that we can do with the funds in hand finished. On the Boys' school building we are at work clearing the stone and dirt and putting things in order for rebuilding this coming Spring. If I had the work now to build I could be buying wood in the market at a bargain instead of buying the same wood from the merchants here this coming spring at a higher figure. Greetings from our circle to Mrs Barton and yourself. Sorry to hear from your letter that Miss Lord's date of sailing had been put off still later that is the 14th. inst.

Fraternally Yours
Robt. S. Stapleton

Erzroom, Turkey

Sept 20-1904

Rec'd DEC 27 1904

86

Erzroom Turkey December 3rd. 1904.

Ans'd DEC 28 1904

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Glad to hear from you upon my return from a tour of the field last week. After bringing the friends from Trebizond no time was lost for the visit that had been promised to the out-stations of this center. So Miss Foote, accompanied Dr. Underwood and Miss Nellie Cole on their way as far as Khanous. They spent the Sabbathn with us and then left us to look after our work and they went on to Bitlis thro' the rains that in this region come a month after the equinoxial season. The following Sunday we spent in the Pasin villages and then home again for a rest of twenty four hours ere again we were in the saddle and this time it was for Erzingan and Kemagh. We were but able to give them a passing call and to gladden their hearts with a promise of a longer stay in the Spring . We performthe sacrements of the church inthe different places, considered as best we could under the circumstances the questions before each place and then left them just in time ere the mountain roads became blocked withn snow which has come this week. But you are to have a fuller account of this journey when after this week my semi-annual accounts for Mr Peet have left us. This note to-day is merely to acknowledge your favors of which we have two at hand and to say that we are all well just now. Natalie has been indoors with the German Measles this week but she has been in good spirits and only the rash gave the sign that she was sick. We are keeping her from the other little ones so that they will not take it, as it would go hard with them at their age.

Just now we are in the midst of our first heavy snow storm of the season which will give a good foundation for the winter's sleighing if it does hinder the trafic over the mountains.

Your suggestion in regard to using the big Mission House as a school will receive our attention and about it I will write later when we have looked over the ground more. In your last favor to Mrs Stapleton your speak of the transfer of Miss Foote to this Mission. We sent a vote around the Mission about her coming and it was reported that it had passed on to Chicago and had been granted. Would not this satisfy the brethern at Cple. and have them record it there? We are glad to note that you are somewhat in favor of Dr. Underwood locating at Erzroom. You will doubtless hear from h him of a promise of some support in case work is taken up here. But we do not see why his coming should interfer in the coming of another family here for evangelical work. This was formerly a three man station and the work is suffering here because it has been so long left to one man trying the impossible. I do not mean that the medical work is not evangelical for it is and offers many occassions for good work along that line. We ought to have a family coming along here soon so that he(the man) might get into the work so as to relieve us in a year or two for a visit to the home land. But more of this later. We send this with our best wishes for the Xmas season and a bright and happy New Year to you and th Mrs Barton.

Fraternally yours

Robert S. Stapleton

ee sample from our Industrial Work.
e Mrs Barton with compliments of
e season.

Mzaroom Turkey December 3rd. 1904.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Glad to hear from you upon my return from a tour of the field last week. After bringing the friends from Tresidzond no time was lost for the visit that had been promised to the out-stations of this center. So Miss Foote accompanied Dr. Underwood and Miss Mellie Cole on their way as far as Kharpout. They spent the Sabbath with us and then left us to look after our work and they went on to Bitlis thro' the rains that in this region come a month after the equinoxial season. The following Sunday we spent in the Pasin villages and then home again for a rest of twenty four hours ere again we were in the saddle and this time it was for Erzingan and Kemagh. We were but able to give them a passing call and to gladden their hearts with a promise of a longer stay in the Spring. We performed the ceremonies of the church in the different places, considered as best we could under the circumstances the questions before each place and then left them just in time ere the mountain roads became blocked with snow which has come this week. But you are to have a fuller account of this journey when after this week my semi-annual accounts for Mr Peet have left us. This note to-day is merely to acknowledge your favors of which we have two at hand and to say that we are all well just now. Natalie has been indoors with the German measles this week but she has been in good spirits and only the rash gave the sign that she was sick. We are keeping her from the other little ones so that they will not take it as it would go hard with them at their age.

Just now we are in the midst of our first heavy snow storm of the season which will give a good foundation for the winter's sleighing if it does hinder the traffic over the mountains.

Your suggestion in regard to using the big Mission House as a school will receive our attention and about it I will write later when we have looked over the ground more. In your last favor to Mrs Stapleton your speak of the transfer of Miss Foote to this Mission. We sent a vote around the Mission about her coming and it was reported that it had passed on to Chicago and had been granted. Would not this satisfy the brethren at home, and have them record it there? We are glad to note that you are somewhat in favor of Dr. Underwood locating at Marsovan. You will doubtless hear from him of a promise of some support in case work is taken up here. But we do not see why his coming should interfer in the coming of another family here for evangelical work. This was formerly a three man station and the work is suffering here because it has been so long left to one man trying the impossible. I do not mean that the medical work is not evangelical for it is and offers many occasions for good work along that line. We ought to have a family coming along here soon so that he(the man) might get into the work so as to relieve us in a year or two for a visit to the home land. But more of this later. We send this with our best wishes for the Xmas season and a bright and happy New Year to you and Mrs Barton.

Fraternally yours

Rec'd FEB 3 1905

Erzroom Turkey January 10th, 1905.

Ans'd FEB 6 1905

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Your favor of the 19th. ult. came to hand and I hasten to reply to it in regard to the main feature of your letter and that is the "apprehension here at Erzroom regarding the safety of the Missionary premises owing to indications of hostility from Persian quarters". At first I was at a loss to understand to, what this referred and not until Miss Lord explained could I recall any circumstances. The supposed incident occurred while I was away touring. It was during "Byram" or Ramadzan, when one night some one they said was pounding at the garden door, which is on the street just ten feet away from the Persian consulate garden door. The cook said she heard them talking about the school building and it seems largely upon her testimony that the fear arose coupled with what this one and that one outside says. When Mr Shipley was approached he went to see the Vali Pasha about it and warned them that if any thing else occurred they, the government, would be held responsible. Now as to the testimony of the cook. A year ago, at the time of the fire she showed that her word was not trustworthy because of her mental condition having passed thro' a great deal in the last ten years. I feel sure if again the building should go the question would rise in the mind of the English consul if that woman was a safe one to have round and if with him, then the authorities moreso. Our ladies would not listen to this a moment. When I heard of the

affair upon my return, I immediately sought the night watch who is engaged by us to remain in the building at night, and I roundly scolded him for not hearing the pounding on the door. He declares that it was not on our door but upon the Persian garden door. As regards to that I cannot say, as we are not in the building but that seemed reasonable as many visitors were in the habit of going to the Persians during Ramazan for visiting at night. I have very fully explained the affair as I understand it and I did not see any cause for further fear or alarm. Of course having once been burnt out and every thing perhaps pointing to the origin from that quarter, it is natural that the ladies should be anxious. But Miss Lord has said this morning that she thought the danger was removed by the coming of a consul to the Persian consulate who was and is a friend to us.

This morning is the anniversary of the fire and on the part of the girls there was fear and weeping, but we are safe as yet and we trust in our heavenly Father that all will be well.

By some I may be thought slow in taking up little things but I feel that unless you have something definite to work upon, it but weakens our side when something definite is at hand. In case of rudeness from a soldier it is easy for that one to learn of orders forbidding such as thro' the commanders and underofficiers every man in the line would hear of it. There is a case on the part of some civilian that we are now looking up. But the girl says to us

it was a man but she did not know whether it was a Turk or a Persian. To the ladies she reports that she thought it was a Persian but she did not see his face and very little of his dress. If it were a Persian and we could find the man I am sure the Persian consul would at once imprison him without trial. But I do not know who it is and no one else knows , so we have to wait keeping a better lookout on our streets. Some of our orphan girls tell of being molested or rather annoyed on the streets or on this street. In one way I tell them they invite such by their behavor. I have repeatedly watched them to see if any one did in the least molest them but without avail. It would go hard with the man if I saw it.

I wish to acknowledge the receipt of the Board Almanack with the report of the Annual meeting and the Sermon preached there. Enclosed are two votes that we have sent the round of the Mission and we hope to hear from them soon. We are just now in the middle of our vacation and are glad of a little rest in the change of work for there is plenty to do. The prayer week has extended into this week and we are having good meetings. A gloom is thrown over our community by the death of the wife of one of our prominent members.

Many thanks for your greetings for the new year which has already come to us. With similar greetings to you and Mrs BartonI remain

yours fraternally

Robt. S. Stapleton

it was a man but she did not know whether it was a Turk or a Persian. To the ladies she reports that she thought it was a Persian but she did not see his face and very little of his dress. If it were a Persian and we could find the man I am sure the Persian consul would at once imprison him without trial. But I do not know who it is and no one else knows, so we have to wait keeping a better lookout on our streets. Some of our orphan girls tell of being molested or rather annoyed on the streets or on this street. In one way I tell them they invite such by their behavior. I have repeated watched them to see if any one did in the least molest them but without avail. It would go hard with the man if I saw it.

I wish to acknowledge the receipt of the Board Almanack with the report of the Annual meeting and the Sermon preached there. Enclosed are two votes that we have sent the round of the Mission and we hope to hear from them soon. We are just now in the middle of our vacation and are glad of a little rest in the change of work for there is plenty to do. The prayer week has extended into this week and we are having good meetings. A gloom is thrown over our community by the death of the wife of one of our prominent merchants.

Many thanks for your greetings for the new year which has already come to us. With similar greetings to you and Mrs Barton remain

Yours fraternally

Received Jan. 10. 1905.

88

Erzroom Turkey March 31st. 1905.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

I have several letters from you that remain unacknowledged till now. They often say that no news is good news and as we can say that thro' this winter we have been kept by the Father above, and blest in our efforts in His Kingdom yet it is not that there has been nothing about which to write that has kept me from answering your letters.

The winter is closing and we are now enjoying bright days altho' not only hills but the plain-s are still covered with snow. These bright days are telling in regard to the health of our little ones of our home nest. We are having our morning walk before school and take the children out of the city gate which is near our home and there get a breath of the pure air from the mountains.

The winter has been a very pleasant one in the work here. The school work with the other out-side duties has kept me quite busy and in the being busy along these lines there is a great joy. But this leads me to a question which with us as with many other stations is becoming a burning question. You alluded to it in a letter about the coming of Dr. Underwood to our station. You ask will the coming of Dr. Underwood to our station make it as fully manned as we think it necessary. To this we say emphatically no. In what I am saying it is fartherest from my intention to say that a doctor's work is not missionary and that he [illegible] not do missionary work. He can and does in a wayn that ofte[illegible]uts our efforts in the shade. But it is not the regular work of the station such as looking after schools and the touring work. Let him do touring work and his visits to any village or city finds plenty for him to do along the line of medical work and administering to the needs of the sick even in a spiritual way. We will need and do now need another missionary family here to help in the general work. Already Dr. Underwood is receiving calls for his professimnal aid and I feel certain this will increase as time goes on. I want to make myself plain in this regard which is that a doctor's sphere of labor is a separate one from the general work and yet is a part of it. He creates a new field of influence which he has all he can do to fill unless he is trying to do too much and so run the risk of breaking down. But there is little use in telling you all this for you do know it yourself and have only to turn to any of our missionary doctors on the field for further data.

I am not now arguing for Dr. Underwood to remain here. We all wish that it will be arranged so that he will remain here but the point is that our need will be just as great for another missionary family here as it was before. Nor am I pressing our claim before that of other stations. There is Bitlis for whom our hearts ache. Mr Cole ought to be relieved at once for he is not well and has had more than his share of burdens in a very hard field and I was going to say discouraging field. He is the last man to complain of himself but we feel that he ought and must be relieved at once. Some have gone so far to say that Dr. Underwood ought to have remained there. But there is another side to that question. Mr. Cole's need is not so much of a medical colleague as it is of one who will take up the general evengelistic work whether in pulpit, school or villages. Dr. Underwood was not and is not prepared for that nor pretends to be. While he was there he felt of little help to Mr. Cole along the line in which Mr. Cole needed help and he felt that he was hindering another from being sent out to give that needed help. Then some will say that he is in a similar situation here and in some respects it is so. But there is to be said that he is kept busy here with his medical work whereas in Bitlis he did not find that opening for the medical work that he does he or rather he did not find circumstance so favorable. Then again I may all of us are hoping that when you in Boston realize that such is the case you will not leave us handicapped in this way much longer.

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One crying need for our field is for a man to give most of his time to the out-stations. From Khanous comes the news of men being reached and brought into the church. Reports from Erzingan tells of a united church something that has not existed since I came here. But the regions beyond where we have churches are needing a great deal of shepherding. Then again we are praying that the reforms that are sure to come to Russia will open the door to that part of our field and there will be work enough there when that time does come. It take a man some years to get acquainted with the work and the field and now is the time that he ought to be on the ground preparing. We rejoice with Van over the coming of Mr. and Mrs Yarrow to their aid. Do the same for Bitlis this year and we will not grumble if we have to wiat till another year for our help. But we pray of you not forget us here especially in this matter.

In regard to the work there are several pleasing features. The first one is the interest among the boys of the school in regar to themselves. They have started a society among themselves like the Christian Endeavor movement and they hold their weekly meeting where there is seldom any time wasted and they also engage in out-side work. I have been much interested in attending their meeting to listen to them and to see them at work. The pastor who has been here this winter and rousing the church is making himself felt in the work. Now we pray that he will not get discourage and leave us at the end of the year which we fear he may do. Among some of the workers we have started a traing class for bible workers. We seek the Devine blessing upon our efforts along this line for just here is the need of the church that is to get them interested in the work, to do some thing for the Master and then there will be less time for the quarreling that too often occurs when God's children are not actively employed for their Savior.

Another pleasing feature is that the church is now holding Communion every two months instead of twice a year as formerly. Along with this the visitations of Miss Foote among the sisters of the church and those outside is having a good result.

Just now I am looking after some work that is being finished in the Girls' school for which Miss Lord has received $300.00. It is finsihing off the attic as a domitory and putting clothes closets there also. I wish the debt might be removed but the friends here are not so concerned about it and say that the Board will doubtless see to it. The 100.00 liras we put into the first structure which was burnt has somewhat crippled us from doing anything just now. When I speak of putting aside toward that debt a part of what is coming in to finsih off the building there is an immediate desent to any such proprosition. I think that I have explaine before that the debt was on the building ere the fire swept it away. In rebuilding I saw to it that the insurance was made to cover all that was done. The debt is 140.00 Lt. or$616.00 . Yes it is a large debt but to which or its cause I do not lay any claim .

I notice what you wrote in your letter regarding the Committee ad interim of Cple. No we never dreamt of them having any thing to do with us here but your statement about the ladies being members or under the American Board is something new to us here. If under the American Board then why not let them vote on matters pertaining to the Board's work. Heretofore reports appeals and other things have been made directly to the various Woman's Boards according as the lady was said to have been sent out by them. But then we are not going to enter into that discussion at all but will leave it for the three cities to thresh it out to the end. Yes there seems to be a question regarding this point or so the various Boards maintain. But I must not prolong this further than to add our best greetings from our entire circle to your and Mrs Barton.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

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Fraternally yours

Erzerum
Nov. 1. 1900

Rec'd APR 21 1905
APR 24 1905
Ans'd APR 25 1905

Erzroom Turkey April 1st. 1905.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

I wish to add a little on the subject of the last paragraph of my letter of yesterday. As I there said it had been our custom to appeal to the various Boards who were supplying the funds for the various ladies of our station. So last year as we learned that Miss Foote was available, we wrote the Board of the Interrior regarding her and they said they were willing that the transfer be made provided the Mission agreed. We then sent out an intersessional vote asking that Miss Foote be invited to join the E.T.M. to be located at Erzroom. This vote passed the Mission and we heard from it in August last. I think that I then wrote you that the vote had passed and on the strength of the word from the W.B.M.I., we gave the word to Miss Foote. Now is it our fault that the Prudential Com. just acted upon the matter this past month? Now we are slow here but who was slow in this matter? It may have been our Mission clerk. Is it not somewhat amusing that the lady should have arrived here, had her expenses O.K.d by the W.B.M.I. Another fact is to be noted in the vote and that is that Miss Foote was to be located at Erzroom so the Mission has given its consent. It is not always referred to the Mission as the case just before us th that of the Rev.& Mrs. Emrich who are going to Mardin. True the vote sanctioning their going to Mardin has come to us but they are sent out by Boston with the undersanding that that is to be their destination. This called forth the remark from Dr. Barnum of Harpoot in a letter this morning, " that they" Mardin "possess more tape of the colored variety than any other station" and further " that the vote is a meaningless formality - in my opinion Harmless also" Now we are not objecting to Boston sending out a man and locating him at any station they think he is best fitted to fill. To us it seems the best way and we are gad that they thus use their good judgement. But we do think that the Hand Book quotation had better be left out when they have not given their consent in the first place, that is that the Mission are to locate all coming to the field. There that is enough and as the boy says I feel relieved. But I would like to see a Hand Book that is such as to enable us all to live up to it in all things. Yes had we an annual meeting many of these things might be looked after. From appearances this ~~year~~ it looks as tho' we are not to have a meeting this year either. News from Van comes that a general order has been given out against touring among the villages. As yet we have not heard of it here but will know when we apply for a gaurd the end of this month when we go out into the field.

By the way, I understood from a former letter you sent, that the Prudential Committee had voted us the insurance money to rebuild the Boys' school. But as yet we have not heard from Cple. that the credit has come . We wish to prepare the wood and to make the windows and doors this Summer so that the wood will be well seasoned ere we place them in the building. I do not think we shall build this year unless we do it in the Fall and then finsih thro' the winter and the coming Spring. I am about to apply for the permit but the request may have to go to Cple. If it is a fact that we cannot tour this year then I shall try to push the building so as to relieve me for the coming year for more touring. May we soon hear from Boston thro' Mr Peet that the credit has been passed in and then we will not be called to an account by Mr Peet for overdrawing our account.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Rec'd JUN 2 1905

90

Erzroom Turkey May 9th. 1905.

Rec'd JUN 2 1905

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Rec'd JUN 1 1905

Just a line to let you have a peep at us at this time. Yesterday Dr. Underwood started for Trebizond as an escort for Miss Bushnell who has started for Cple. in order to meet company for the home trip. For the past few weeks we have been having anything but settled weather but it is a gloriously fine day just when they are crossing the worst mountain range and for this we are thankful. For the Easter week(native) my family has been at Iledje for a rest and it has been a rest indeed altho' the weather was anything but Spring like. This Thursday Miss Foote and I start for a tour of the field. But we must be back again in three weeks in order that I may get my semiannual account sheet ready for Mr. Peet. Whether I will be then able to go again before the close of school is doubtful. Miss Foote is planning to spend the Summer in one of our villages in the Kemagh field and it will be a good thing for the village I am sure and we hope for the lasting good of the work; for that portion of our field is needing a great deal of work and care. It has some peculiar obstacles to the work. The entire church is from one family or clan and so is ruled by the head. There the head is an ignorant man and hard to lead except along his way. If for one little thing a worker is "persona non gratia" to him then all thumbs are downward pointing. Another thing is there are but two men in the church and they have the say of all things. If Miss Foote's visit there can have some influence on this matter and bring the women into a higher place in the work it will be a good

thing. Good reports come from Khanous where we sent a young man this last Autumn and he reports five wishing to unite with the church. Another thing he is preparing the members for the communion we are to have there two weeks later. Not only among his own members is he at work but among those of the old church and some are from them. One a teacher in their school has expressed a desire to be known as a follower of Christ.

Another young man and his family we hope to put in the Pasin field and another in the Khanous field, while a change there will give a worker in another village.

In another place where we have a girls' school we have an evil arising from having placed a building in the native's name. One man who is somewhat fluent with his pen "sat there" once and putting money in it for repairs (but where it all went we do not see) and now he claims the building because I will not meet his bills. He is writing Cple. again about the work??? with the hope of getting some money for it. Now I am helpless as the property is in the name of a native who is now in America and it is registered as a house. Of course we could let go our interest in the school there until the people in some way forced the ~~people~~ man to do the things he ought to do. One thing for this trip is to try and settle this matter. With greetings from us all as a circle to Mrs. Barton and yourself I remain

fraternally yours

Robert S. Stapleton

Glad to hear that you are giving the true version of the affairs in this land and putting the blame where it belongs. We are with you in it.

AUG 9 1905

Erzroom Turkey July 10th. 1905.

Dear Home Friends:-

The' rather late I am sure you will wish to hear about the trip we have made among the churches of two sections of our field. The we here are Miss Foote and myself. Miss Ruth Bushnell left us for a year's rest in the States on the 8th. of May , Dr. Underwood who is now a member of our station escorting her to the coast at Trebizond. On the Thursday of the same week we started in the opposite direction first going East. The first days were fine and we greatly enjoyed the out door life after the long winter. The first point to touch was Passin to the East of us. At a village on the way we rested at noon at a house of the head man of the place. Every ready for an opportunity we tried to interest the man in the education of one of his girls. He would give her to us if we desired and we could place her in school but as for giving toward her keep why that was out of the question. Then we approached him about his boy for whom he was ready to do something if needed but he was ready to let us have the boy if we would put him into the high school. In many of these villages there are sorts of schools for the boys alone but nothing for the girls until I remember an instance where a girl put on boys clothing that she might go to school to learn to read. The daughter is often sold into an other family as a bride and so why should the father expend more money than is necessary on a GIRL.

But this was merely a noon rest and so we must hasten on over the mighty Araxes River beloved by the Armenians which flows into the Caspian sea. It was flood time and we must cross the bridges. Kematser is the village where we first meet one of our churches. Here it was that two years of the agitators coming over from Russia (whose territory is in view from the village) and the soldiery of this land had a pitched battle. Several of the villagers from here have been imprisoned as a result and some have died there. This church is one that causes us to rejoice as we visit it. The members or the larger portion seem so earnest in their faith and work Tho' without a preacher just now they continue the meetings on Sunday and every evening just before sunset they have a prayer service. This is a very good feature for otherwise some would not have the Bible read daily for them as they cannot read. In this village we visited every house and held a little service for them all. On the Sabbath we had communion when we received four sisters into fellowship and eleven infants were christened at the same time. The little church was crowded almost to suffication and we were glad to have the windows taken out. Their homes are mostly dug-outs with rude stone walls and earth roofs. To the guest room at times it is thro' a long passage underground which has two benfits for them first for warmth and second for safety for there is time to hide if the house be entered. These passages are dark and the Armenian word for warm has the same sound "dark" so you see we can say they are dark in two senses. One feels as he is entering as the' he was saying goodbye to the pure air for aye. The guest room is in connection with the cattle stable for they are to a large extent the heating apparatus.

Tedeveren we also visited seeking out the members and trying to stir them to a stronger life and work for the Master. But here we witnessed one of the many petty annoyances that a subject race must endure. In the home where we sat at table two soldiers entered pretending to have authority to search the house. This had been down many times during the winter and perhaps notwithout some cause. But this time it was merely malice on the part of some of the village Turks who put up the soldiers to do it. [illegible]

Erzroom. Turkey. July 9-1905.

thing. Good reports come from Ibranora where we sent a young man this last Autumn and he reports five wishing to unite with the church. Another thing he is preparing the members for the communion we are to have there two weeks later. Not only among his own members is he at work but among those of the old church and some are from them. One a teacher in their school has expressed a desire to be known as a follower of Christ.

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In another place where we have a girls' school we have an evil arising from having placed a building in the native's name the man who is somewhat friendly with his pen "sat there" once and putting money in it for repairs (but where it all went we do not see) and now he claims the building because I will not meet his bills. He is writing Dple. again about the work??? with the hope of getting some money for it. Now I am helpless as the property is in the name of a native who is now in America and it is registered as a house. Of course we could let go our interest in the school there until the people in some way proved the [illegible] man to do the things he ought to do. One thing for this trip is to try and settle this matter. With greetings from us all as a circle to "e. Barton and yourself I remain

Fraternally yours

Robert A. Hamilton

Glad to hear that you are giving the true version of the affairs in this land and putting the blame where it belongs. We are with you in it.

where their superior was only to receive a beating for their pains and the man returned to his home. In another village which we visited we found a Kourdish chief trying to locate there, which meant the confiscation of the best fields for himself and his retainers But he was not permitted to do so, as the Government forced him to. return to his own place. In this village of Khesoveren we had a school some three years ago and our visit there was to reopen it, so we took the teacher and left him there. From here we went on to Hasnikar (take the bride) from which place we are trying to get a girl for our boarding department of the Girls' school here. They wish a teacher and we are hoping to place one there. From

this quarter it had been our desire to cross the mountains over into Khanous. But the passes were yet filled with snow and the rain that was falling every day make the streams almost unfordable so we had to make a detour of a day so as to cross the bridges again. As it were we had several swollen streams to cross which tried us to the utmost. Two and a hafl days brought us to Khanous where we found good work going along under the care of Bar Arshag (ruler). Here again they began to ask about the wonderful doctor who was reported as doing a great work in Erzroom. And this leads me to go back a little on my story. When we left Erzroom a Russian (Armenian) doctor had come from Russia and while waiting for the roads to open to Bitlis an Moush he had opened a free dispensary and was seeing from two hundred to three hundred people a day. It soon got newsed abroad that he was there and they began to come from villages around to several days distance. One sad sight we saw when returning from Passin was an old man leading back a blind girl of seventeen. Disappointment was written on their faces. Walking in the hot sun two days journey filled with hope of what the doctor might do. But the hope that sustained them going was gone and the journey seemed twice as hard. His fame had reached Khanous and we were continually meeting travellers on the road who were on their way to see the doctor. Here in Khanous we have some work in four villages but our people are scattered in many other villages and all these we tried to see. In the village of Heramik where we made our head quarters we found the people in many instances in a very poor condition and planning to go into a kind of servitude to the Kourds. They had fields but no oxen or seed and to borrow at any price meant just working for some other man. As servants of the Kourds they are better treated than by their own people. From another village near by a member and his family had moved away to become the servant of a Kourd. This man at home had not been the best kind of church member but always quarrelling with the preacher and the others. I knew not where he was but it seemed as the' God led us to him and his family. Crossing the plain in a new direction we were overtaken by a rain storm and had not our water proof with us when we ran across a small village in the gully into which we put for shelter. Who should meet us first but this brother, and his was the first house we came to. Glad we were for this opportunity to speak with him and his. In the household all told where we sat were fifteen grown up girls and women not one of whom could read. In the village from which he had fled as much from fear of the government as from inability to live there, we had kept a school and at times sent girl teachers but so obstinate was he that he never sent his children to the school and seldom went to church himself. His affliction he charged up to the Lord and ended by asking for a teacher and preacher for the five households there. Here as else where I quoted Matthew 6:33 and made a personal applicatio to the case before us.

The second Sabbath we passed on this plain will be a memorable one for that section. As I said our center was at Heramik and to this place we invited the members from six villages to come and unite with us in celebrating the Lord's supper. Five of the six villages were represented and a gracious time we had. Nine new members were received into fellowship and some thirteen infants were christened. At the close of this service we were met by an old man who was a member of a another village who had come expressly for the communion and altho' he was there on time he had not heard the call to service (which is accomplished by hammering on a piece of iron aith two, mallets) and so he had missed it. This gave him great pain for being so feeble he was afraid it might be his last opportunity . So I invited him to the house and there we had a second service at which were present besides Miss Foote and myself our preacher of that village and one of our girl teachers who has since passed to her rest above. This teacher had been sick ever since the middle of winter and we had brought her from the city of this section to this village that she might be outdoors more, with the hope that she might get well. But it was the Father's will to take her home and she has passed from our sight since we left there. This little service was enjoyed by all and especially by us as we saw the pleasure it gave to the old man as he sat on the floor and received the emblems from my hands.

After the Sabbath we visited another village which was new to both and there found some three protestant brides, that is brides taken from protestant houses. How glad they were to see us and how they did beg for a teacher to be sent to their village. For the boys of the section there is a very good school taught by a former student of the Armenian academy of this city. But not a thought was given to the girls. We tried to get a rich man who had large interests there to make an offering to the work but he would not pledge. We still have hopes of seeing a teacher there.

Our faces are now turned towards home. We noon at a village where we have a church and our host who provided us dinner took me on one side to propound the connundrum of his state . He had been insarcerated all the winter and had just been let out as a "ticket of leave" man. His fault had been polictical as being friendly to the agitators. There had been no trial but in some way he had been released. Now what was he to do. He had given his word not to aid in any way these who had formerly been his friends and with whom he had been in sympathy for such was his nature. But if he did not give them the aid they asked for, his life might be the forfiet. If he gave them aid to jail again he must go and even if he did not give them aid some enemy might report that he had and so he would then go. Poor man without the true Christian faith it was hard. Im pointed him to Jesus as a helper to do right and said that even if his life was taken he must give and keep his word. How very few of them are ready to do that. They wish the liberty that we enjoy without being prepared for it by paying the price. Too often their complaint is of the money lost here and there was an opportunity to preah Matthew 6:33 which I did but did not forget to pray that God would lead him to do the right whatever the result might be.

As we continued our journey we were met by rain storms which seem to be all the more intense as the higher up on the mountain we were. But this rain brought its blessing in the shape of the beautiful flowers that decked the mountain sides the next day. The gorgeous tulips, the bright large for-get-me-nots and the other flowers caused us to forget the cold wet rain of the day before. On our last day toward home we found what havoc the rain had done to the road during our travels. A fine bridge only constructed

last year had been distroyed and again we had to pass thro' the flood . But this did not hinder us on our journey home. Met on the further side of the mountain by a carriage which had brought Mrs Stapleton and children we were glad to go the rest of the way in a carriage.

It had been our desire to go on to the Western part of our field . But the school work in the city was demanding our intention for that has been under my care for the past few years. Then again this year we had our first graduating class of boys and this was another cause why our trip had to be given up. For the past six years we have had a choral class here under my care. They have given great help at the commencement exercises and this year we were planning for a similar program. This year we had prepared three sacred choruses and two glees besides several part songs. There were five graduates four from the boys school and one from the girls' school all from the orphanage. The examinations came first and occupied five days all open to the public. The only room of any size is the hall of the Girls' school and here we arranged to received the guests. The Girls' school had the first two days and we the last two days but we had two sessions daily. Recitations and songs between the classes made the sessions enjoyable features The Graduating exercises took place in the Protestant Church to which had been invited some two hundred guests and the building was well filled. The girl graduate gave an essay in English and then a farewell to school and school-mates in her mother tongue. The four boys had different languages that is counting ancient Armenian different from modern Armenian. English, Turkish, and Ancient and Modern Armenian after which the first one gave the

farewell on behalf of the boys to their school and mates. Their class motto and song was one and the same, viz, "Trust in God and do the right". After these exercises a reception was given to classes, old graduates and friends of the school in the Girls' school building which had just been completed after the fire of last year. Thus you get a little glimpse of the way in which our efforts are being put forth for those of this land. The people are nominally Christian which makes it a much harder field to labor in than a land that is confessedly heathean. We are not permitted to work for the mohammedans, that is not one is allowed to turn a Christian and live.

This Summer we expect to go to Van to attend a meeting of our Mission which comprises the five stations Harpoot, Marden, Bitlis Van and Erzroom. Upon my return perhaps there will be a little more to tell of interest about the land, the people and the experiences which we may have.

Yours in the Master's service

Robt. S. Stapleton

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Yours in the Master's service

Geo. A. Stapleton

Erzroom
Turkey-Asia
July 10-1905.

Rec'd AUG 3 1905
Ans'd AUG 10 1905

Erzroom July 14th 1905

Dear Dr Barton:-

I have received several letters from you which I am trying to answer in this one along with the reports you are receiving from here. But first of all let me mention a gross insult we are meeting here which is that we are not permitted to go to Van and Bitlis. No reason is given nor is it considered dangerous to travel thro' the country. It is merely a peremptory command from Cple. We applied for our papers thro' Mr Shipley who protested against the outrage but not able to move the Governor General wire to Cple. The Governor here is not unfriendly at all and in this falls back upon his orders. As it is in the Consul's hand we thought it best await the reply from the legation altho' at first we felt like going on without the papers and act on our treaty rights. It may take a week to straighten out the affair but if others are going we will go also.

Pardon us if we seem to have slighted your suggestion about the Upper House being permanently used as a school. From your other

letters received about a month ago we inferred that you had received our opinion about the matter. We have studied the question but feel that the scheme would be less useful in the long run than to use the building as it is now being used by Dr Underwood as a home and also for his medical work for the which it is well adapted.

We were preparing plans to present at the meeting in Tan and were they at hand to day I would enclose copies. We were planning to erect the house very similar to what it was before the fire that is make it 50 ft x 80 ft. But we doomed to make all the corners straight ones and to plan the arrangement of rooms differently. Our consul thinks that we will not be permitted to put it right up to the street as heretofore so for this reason and in order to get more sunshine into the rooms we wish to place the building parallel to the street and some what from it, thus putting the yard in front. But I will send the plans if not to day then next week. I believe we can do it

for the money from the insurance voted by the Prudential committee.

Another thing about this building will be that the upper story could be used as a residence for a missionary family whom we still hope to see here, and other arrangements made for the boarding department which is beginning.

I hope to write before next week that the objection to our going has been removed and we shall be on the way to Van.

Greetings from us as a circle

Fraternally Yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Erzroom - Turkey. July 14-1905.

Rec'd SEP 25 1905

Erzroom Turkey August 29th. 1905.

Ans'd OCT 16 1905

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Here we are at home again after our visit to Van and Bitlis. You will be interested to know that our minister in Cple. arose to the occassion and sent me a telegram to again demand the necessary papers to travel and on the refusal by the Governor to notify him, ~~him~~ of the date of starting, route of travel and destination and then to rise and go. This was done but at the same time as the Vali appeared friendly in all of this and he said he was merely obeying oreders, I asked him to give me an escort to the boundary of his villayet and this he did. We started just a week late and with some pushing reached the meeting some four days after it had begun. But we were here long enough to receive some of the spirit and a fine one it was . You will be hearing from Mr. Carey the report of the work done there at the meeting so I will not repeat in detail. But here are a few pictures that may interest you. It is too bad that the group picture is not a better one. We sat twice for it with this result. I think the little picture made by the Kodak much better. In the little picture are to be found Mr. Mc. Dowell and Mr Sterritt of the Presbyterian Mission as well as the three German ladies of the Van orphanage Miss Steel is to the left of Miss Ely and Miss Nellie Cole is just behind her and before Mr Cole, Mr Mc. Dowell is to the left of Mr. Cole while Sister Clara the nurse in Van is in front of Mrs Cole who sits next her husband. Next to Mrs Cole comes Miss Foote then Sister Christina and Mrs Jarrow with Mr Sterritt behind in his white coat. Just behind Mr Andrus is Miss Norton who is trying to hide Miss Mc.Laren. Mrs Carey sits next to Mr. Andrus with Miss Fanaga next to Mr Carey while Miss Wilson sits to the front of the two last mentioned ladies. Mrs Ussher with her three children comes next and Miss Patrunky in front at the extreem left. The other pictures will explain them selves or the writing on the backs of them will/ I do not just now remember whether I sent you the pictures of our graduates this year If not, here they are.; The young lady being alone in her class, thought she must have support in the pictureso the pastor as a teacher and I as a director came to have a part in the picture. The four boys who graduated appear well in the picture and I am glad to think that three of them are to be with us this year in the work. We are just now preparing to open the schools. But as the Girls' school ~~are~~ is under a cloud as to debts upon building and running expenses and the treasurer is calling me to an account for these debts we have decided to appeal to the W.B.M.I. before we open this next month. Miss Lord has written them this week again asking instructions by cable and in the meantime we shall be keeping only two rooms open in the hopes that the answer will be a favorable one. Miss Bushnell who is now in America will see the ladies in Chicago and I hope she will be able to answer questions as to the causes of these two defects. As I have said before the debt upon the building was before the fire when I did not have as complete controll as I did in the latter rebuilding. The debt on the running expenses is largely due if not altogether to the fire.

I am sorry to say that our pastor who has been with us for the past year has the fever to come West and so he comes one step nearer and hopes to enter the field at Trebizond or rather at Bardezag under Mr Robert Chambers. He did good work at first and perhaps he might remain here, were it not for these western fevers having got hold of him. The day we reached Bitlis some thirteen from the Bitlis community were leaving for Fresno and other places in the same direction. Discouraging to say the least. But of course we are not here merely for those of our communities but for those of the old church also as well as those of other nations found in our midst. I hope Van will succeed in getting the steam launch it is planning to have and then Bitlis will be nearer to them.

Referring now to the matter of the rebuilding of our Boys' school, upon the suggestion from Boston I submitted the plans as Dr. Underwood and I had worked over them here and the matter went before the committee which reported them back to the meeting as finding no objection to them. My report before the committee was in substance as follows.

In regard to structure the size was the same as the old building, that is, a fifty feet front and a depth of eighty feet. But as we had been advised by the consul, that it appeared to him the position would have to be changed for the authorities did not wish to give any more permits for such buildings to front on the street, ~~so~~ we plan to place the building parallel to the street and by this means give it much more sun on the side where the school rooms are to be/. Part of the old foundations will be used in the new building but not all. Another advantage to be gained is that our rooms camn be made with square corners a thing devoutly to be desired.

The plans enclosed are but of the two floors. The hall and door of the lower story are a little to one side of the middle, so that it will come just in the center of our land which runs to the front street. The facade is to be of field stone, ~~is~~ with squared stone for the corners and round the windows. The first floor is to be four meters high. The large room is to be the general school room with three class rooms along the side which may be made to increase the capacity of this large room. This is to meet a great necessity for an audience room out side of the church for examinations &c. and such a room we have not just now. The corner room to the right is to be for a principal's room, a class room and the school library. The room behind it will be a primary school room with another door in the back part of the hall . The door was not put in the plan here. The lavatory and toilet rooms will be to the rear of the hall in a building outside.

The second floor will be much as the old building second floor was except that it will only be 3 meters high. These rooms will be for several purposes-as class rooms, a book room for Bible society and our own Mission books, a reading rooms , dormitories and accommodation for a resident teacher. The roof will be gable.

We think that the two floors can be finished off with the money voted by the prudential committee a year ago. Upon the support of the Mission's decision we submitted the plans to the local authorities and learned that there is to be no objection to the permission being given here.

Already as I had written before we have bought some wood that it might become seasoned for the doors windows &c. We only await your word that the money has been placed to the credit of our station and then you will see the work go ahead. For the winter the school will be crowded into the lower rooms of the Upper house in which Dr. Underwood is now living and trying to carry on his medical work. But he is clamoring for the entire building that as soon as possible he can begin his hospital in embryo. Rumor has it that the fine building finished a year ago as a city hospital is now to be given over to the military as a school for officers. So as yet there is no public or general hospital here and we have just sent one of our servants to Van for such care in an opperation which alone can be had in a well equipped hospital.

Perhaps I forgot to say that the new building we desire to put up in lime as it has been seen here that such is the best economy in the long run. Work and material just now is not so expensive and we hope to have the foundations finished ere snow flies so please let us hear from you thro' Mr. Peet or else he will be calling me over the coals for over-running the account again.

Sept. 2nd.

Your favor of Aug. 11th.has just come to hand. As it touches upon this question of building it might be acknowledged here. We of the present day Erzroom force do not relish the reputation that this Station has gained in times past.Perhaps just a word here ought to be given as touching the incident in which you might think we were following in the same line. In my annual report of 1902 - 1903 the debt was reported as from Lt.260.00 to Lt. 300.00. It is now Lt. 140.46 and had there been no fire last year this might have disappeared by this time. I do not lay claim to any share to this debt and when the damage done by the fire was repaired the insurance was not over run.

In regard to the building in view I can but repeat that it is the determination of the circle here to keep within the amount granted. As I said before work and material are much cheaper now and this gives us assurance in saying that the work can be done and well done within the limit as given.

As now is the season when wood is coming in I am looking about for some suitable for the building. Please let us hear of a credit thro' mr. Peet to meet this,By this means we save quite a per cent than if we get it from the dealers who are buying it now

Yesterday was the celebration of the accession of the Sultan to the throne. We called upon the Governor General and the Commandant of the place to pay our respects. In the evening Dr. Underwood and I attended a diner given by the Governor General in honor of the day. At times it is a great question with us whether we should go to such wine drinking feasts. Almost invariably the conversation turns on the subjects of drinking and smoking and we have good opportunities of doing a little preaching along those lines as I did to the Armenian Bishop last night who sat next to me. Our Governor General practically does neither and it would be a good thing if his example were followed by others of the company. In a week or so I may be able to write a report of our trip this Summer. We are still under tents but expect to come to the city by Monday next. This next week you will be at the Annual meeting and we will be with you in Spirit and prayer.

Greetings from our circle to you and Mrs Barton.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

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Your favor of Aug. 11th. has just come to hand. As it touches upon this question of building it might be acknowledged here. We of the present day Diocesan Force do not relish the reputation that this Station has gained in times past. Perhaps just a word here ought to be given as touching the incident in which you might think we were fall owing in the same line. In my annual report of 1902 - 1903 the debt was reported as from $1,200.00 to $1,300.00. It is now $1,110.46 and had there been no fire last year this might have disappeared by this time. I do not lay claim to any share to this debt and when the damage done by the fire was repaired the insurance was not over run.

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Greeting from our circle to you and Mrs Burton.

Pretermally yours

Correspondence

Sept. 2 1905

Aug. 29 1905

Rec'd OCT 9 1905

Erzroom Turkey September 15th. 1905.

My dear Miss Wingate:-

This last post I sent you a letter regarding the coming of Miss Cady to our Erzroom station. Her coming here brings up a vital question for the work and which has brought us into a very serious misunderstanding here and has very much affected Miss Foote's first year with us. When we invited her here in June 1904 mention was made of the out-side work which needed very much a missionary to give a great share of her time. This is the outside work for women in distinction to the Girls' school here in Erzroom and included in its scope the schools in the villages in which lady teachers are employed. But Miss Lord on her return from furlough demanded that Miss Foote give her entire time to the school saying that she was invited for that purpose. The lady was not in Erzroom when Miss Foote was invited and approached about coming here. Miss Foote and the rest of the Mission circle did not think that the Girls' school needed the services and entire time of three American lady teachers and so Miss Foote asked the circle to decide it. Then it was suggested that Miss Foote teach two classes which would bring her program up to ten A.M. and then the rest of the day was for the out-side work. This was the vote altho' Miss Foote said right here she was ready to take her share in the home work with the boarders of whom there were some sixteen with four native teachers in the house to help.

Here in comes the point in question. Miss Lord claims to have received from Dr. Barton the year she came out to Erzroom 1898 an invitation to the principalship of the Girls' school to the exclusion of any other teacher sent out by the W.B.M.I. who pay for the work out-side of Miss Lord's allowance having any voice what ever in the management of the schools or funds. As a station we do not agree with Miss Lord in this position she has taken and think that all lady teachers sent out by the Boards are on equal footing as to the school work which they would divide among themselves.

This attitude upon Miss Lord's part part has given Miss Foote anything but a happy year. Furthermore beaause Miss Foote would not give her entire attention and time to the school she has not received the treatment that was due her and has hardly had the respect shown her in the work that the native teachers have received from the principle of the school.

Well the question came to a climax this past week when as a station we demanded the working of the above principle viz? that, the teachers of the school become a party to the working of the school. Miss Foote came here with the the understanding that she was to take Miss Bushnell's place while the latter lady was on her furlough. But no chance had been given her and when she asked to have a different and warmer room in the building, an effort was made on the part of the Principal to get her out of the building notwithstanding the fact that Miss Bushnell's room was vacant. But finally a concession(?) was made and a room was offered her but not the one asked for as it was affirmed that the Principal of such school decide what the rooms shall be used for, and no other reason was given why she could not have the room for which she had made request.

When it came to the work for this year, Miss Foote said that if she was no help in the working of the school others might be found who could and would teach the classes and she then could make a much needed evangelistic tour to Baibourt, Erzingan and Kavagh and she asked the Station for permission to make this tour.

In reply the Principal said that she understood that Miss Foote did not wish to help in the school work. But all of us are liable to forget and words and statements made fomerly are ignored

and just their opposites stated as facts.

We allowed that there may have been this misunderstanding and were ready to let bygones be bygones. Next morning Miss Foote received the house keeper's books and keys and we were rejoicing that the matter was to be thus settled. But ere noon came we found how hasty had been our rejoicing for we were notified that Miss Lord expected to leave at once for America. Of course we did not wish this for we thought that such a move would bring disgrace upon the cause and so we sought some means by which Miss Lord would stay at least till the end of the year when she has announced her intention of retiring from the work. But the only way was to give her entire control and this Miss Lord made as a condition of her staying at all. The circle is with Miss Foote and thik she has the right and the true principle on her side. She was ready to assume entire controll had she been left alone. Miss Lord asked us to provide for four classes but our reply was that while we stood out for the above priciple we did not mean to interfer with the internal working of the school but we were ready to help if we were able when the time came. So under this arrangement Miss Lord has the school entirely under her controll and is doing the work of Principle and matron which does not seem a wise plan to the rest of the circle but as it is only for the year we put aside the principle for the time being hoping that ere another lady teacher comes out from America this matter may be settled either in Chicago or Boston. It has not been a pleasant thing to face here and this last week has seemed to be many times longer in duration because of it. The station has refrained from interferring with the internal working of the school but felt that we could not see this principle so violated when it was to the detriment to one of our circle. Miss Foote now gives her entire time to the work for women outside of the school and this coming week will start on that tour mention above.

Nothing whatever appears on our minutes about this affair and perhaps it would be well not to place this letter on file but on the fire.

Very sincerely yours.

Robt. S. Stapleton

Miss Hingate

Erzroom - Sept. 15 - 1905.

95

Rec'd OCT 9 1905

Erzroom Turkey September 16th. 1905.

Ans'd OCT 16 1905

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Last week we sent the enclosed vote around the Mission and it is hoped that you will soon have the result of the vote. From Miss Bushnell's letter we have been led to understand that Miss Cady was applying to the Board at once. If she could come out this Fall even by the Russian route it would be a great help to her in the work as it would give her a chance at the language.

The other enclosed copy is one that I thought you ought to see. There is nothing to do for this year but our desire is that there may be no repetition of the same. This is a personal letter and does not come from the circle as a station but it seemed to me that the state of affairs ought to be known.

Our schools opened this week and altho all of our scholars are not back yet, we have a goodly number among whom are some new pupils. The Girls school had to posponed its opening till its teachers all return as none have come beaause it was not known in time that the school would be opened and they were told to wait for word from here. But we hope that Monday will see them in place A letter from the W.B.M.I. authorized us to open the school and the debts about which Miss Lord had written are to be considered later.

I hope my letter of two weeks ago with pictures of the meeting in Van has reached you in safety, This week Dr. Underwood and I in company with the consul called upon the Governor General and in response to our inquiry about the building permit he told us that he had ordered the papers to be made out which is a good thing as we will not have to trouble Cple. about it. So we hope to get at the foundation stone this coming week.

Our Erzroom pastor leaves us to-day for the coast and then on to Badazag to work as an evangelist under Dr. Chambers. The getting away from the port at Trebizond for the Armenians seems to be getting harder and harder . Some children are returning now to this city after a failure in this respect. There is no more trouble about our travelling at any rate in the vilayet altho' doubtless if we desired to go to Van or Bitlis again the Governor general would doubtless do as he did before that is grant us a gaurd. Miss Foote is to have a gaurd and a letter of recommendation from the Governor this next week when she starts on her tour to Erzingan.

We are thinking of you just now at the meeting in Seatle and we hope and pray that it may bring a blessing not only to the city where the addresses will be heard but to that part of the land and to all our churches. We are also praying that it may result in finding some recruits for our field, first for Bitlis and then for Erzroom.

News from Van to-day reports an epidemic of typhoid there . There are many here who have the same sickness but not in our immediate circle of acquaintances. Dr. Underwood is kept busy just now and is surely winning a place for himself here.

Our circle unite in sending greetings to you all.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Congress - Sept. 16-1905.

Rec'd JAN 15 1906
Ans'd JAN 25 1906

Erzroom December 22/05

Dear Dr Barton:-

Upon my return from the field your kind favor awaited me giving us the news that the money for the Boys' school had been passed to our credit. This caused no little rejoicing in our circle as Mr Peet was very much disturbed by our overdrawn account. By going ahead as we did we were enabled to get the cellar wall up above the ground. This is no small gain in time and expense for the work was done in a cheap season.

Rest assured we do not mean to go into debt without an earthquake or some such calamity befall us.

We were back from our touring in time to enjoy a glorious thanksgiving service in the church with the schools and friends. I do not recall now whether I wrote you that we have a third daughter in our home. Sibyl Louise came to us the 27th of September and now at three months is doing nicely developing in a way to

please
her parents. We gave heart felt thanks
that both mother and child had been
spared. Mrs Stapleton was indeed glad
to be free from the full responsibility
by the presence of Drs Underwood thinking
that the mother's part was sufficient
without the other worry.

Of our visit to the Ezzingan & Kemagh
fields Miss Foote has written at length
and I copied it for her. A copy will be
sent to you by tomorrow's post so you
will see somewhat of our work. I hope
to touch upon it in a report covering
a somewhat longer period later on.

In a letter to Mr Wiggin this week I
have touched upon a vital question with
us here. Dr Underwood has also written
a letter about the same subject and I
have asked Mr Wiggin to let you read
the letter. I might add that a committee
was finally appointed to bring the matter
at our next meeting but that does not
give us relief just now. Miss McLaren
of Dan said she had to draw upon a small

private fund she has. Dr Usher I understand sold some thing like two hundred dollars of property to make ends meet. Mr Farrow with some help from outside was able last June to come out above water. Mr Carey I was told had to draw upon a home supply. Misses Ely do the same above what the allowance for two would be. You perhaps know better than us the condition of others in the Mission as regards finance.

Up to this year we have managed to keep along for we have had several boarders and these do help. Now we have no regular one with us yet the expenses keep up. Our cook gets $3.20 a month & has four children to support. We could not get one cheaper that is one that could relieve Mrs Stapleton to do the large out side work that is on her hands which forces her to leave the house work very largely to the cook (a woman) and a maid for the children. There has got to be some way out of the question As I said to Mr Wiggin the station on the Coast has a larger basic salary, that is a larger

amount on which to compute per centages. It is more expensive to live here than there. The Presbyterian brethern in Van get more than our friends and say it is because they need it. You see we mean to giving this matter an airing ere we get thro' with it.

Two more days and our Christmas day is with us. We observe our day in the home giving the school a holiday but reserve for the orphans & scholars any thing there is for them till nearer the Armenian date January 19th (N.S.). Yet till a week ago it seemed as tho' it was to be Christmas without the seasonable weather. But this week that has changed and it is cold enough. The change has brought about much sickness and Miss Lord is among the number. She has been very sick this week but I am glad to say she is getting better altho' she will not be able to join the festivities of the circle next Monday. The rest of our little company are in good health and the little ones just bubbling over with the excitement of the week.

Many inquiries come as to the effect of the difficulties in Russia upon this province which is so near. There is so little intercourse between the two section as a strict watch is kept upon the frontier so that we not affected at all. Of course many people here are anxious for their friends there from whom they have not heard as there is no post, and the telegraphs are not working. Our pastor from the other side wrote that it was unsafe to travel from village to village and so he had been unable to do that work so far this Fall. The Russian consul upon whom we called us assured us that every thing was tranquil (?) and we have learned never to dispute with him about such things.

As we look over the field here this winter we are led to rejoice that the work is going on so well, I think all of our old stations are occupied and for this year two villages have schools that last year did not have. Other villages are asking for them and we hope to be able to put workers there this year.

But oh the need of another man so that one of us could give more time nay all of the time to the out side work. It is seldom we are able even to visit a new village and there are many many as yet unreached. As there is no one in the pulpit here our high school teacher and I are supplying it for the time being. One or two applications are on file for the Spring. The church of course is at a stand still except as we are able to influence it thro' the Y.M.C.A. in which Dr Underwood is at work and the Sunday Schools with the C.E. society. There are a dozen or twenty who wish to unite with the church at the coming Xmas Communion. For these, who are mostly young we must have some work in hand so as to have they start aright in their church life.

The women's weekly prayer meeting has turned its energies into a practical direction, that of a sewing circle with a prayer service to close it. But to this the number of church members that

come is limited, and it seem impossible to keep the attention of some of them in the work. Most of them are willing to help by their means as far as they are able, but the real beauty of service they know not. As the prayer meetings during Miss Foote's absence were becoming lost, Mrs Stapleton started the sewing circle with the hope of keeping some interest alive. Most of their efforts are for the prisoners and as the circle is mostly Armenian, of course their race are the larger recipients. But a rule has been made that one garment or article in four goes to a Turk.

Just alluding to a question in your last letter where in you express the hope that things might be arranged so that a certain resignation might be withdrawn we do not see what can be done. This person is on one side and the rest of the circle on the other and it seems utterly useless to attempt to change the attitude or thought of the first party tho' all the rest ~~think~~ should vote against that attitude. The circle has put

aside the principle for which they contend as we understand it is only for this year, and so that our lack of harmony might not influence the out side work things have gone on until one of our number, who would be inclined, if any one was, to side with the minority, has called the school a make shift this year, till the resignation takes effect.

I feel confident that the circle would say let the resignation take place, for our peace has been disturbed too much to wish for a continuation of it.

It is rather late for the New Year but we wish to send our greetings to you and Mrs Barton. There are a few pictures to be sent but I will wait till my next report. We all wish a very happy and blessed New Year.

Fraternally Yours
Robert S. Stapleton

Erzroum. Turkey.
Dec. 22-1905.

Rec'd FEB 26 1906 97
Ans'd FEB 15 1906

Erzroom Turkey February 3rd. 1906.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Your favor of January 10th. came to hand this morning and I hasten to reply to it as I have a little news from this center also. There is a former letter from you which needs to be acknowledge altho' there was no reply to it.

Our schools have begun again with about the same number of scholars some having gone to the old church school while others ~~have~~ from there have come to us. It keeps the bishop and his servants busy looking after the sheep(scholars) that stray into our fold. What arguments they use I do not know but doubtless it is with the women folk of the homes for they are the more ignorant add usually they are the most devoutly attached to the old church with its ceremonies . It is the usual answer when we follow up some of our former pupils to see why they have left us. The father will say "well I wished my children to come to your school but some one has been talking with the mother with the result that she has now given her word that they would go to the national school and what can I do."

At our communion service two weeks ago here in the city we received sixteen new members into church fellowship on confession. None of these were from the old church but had been in our schools for several years. Two were to have come by letter but for one-her letter had not come from Brousa while the other was being persecuted by mother and sister and threatened to be sent adrift if she partook of communion with us. Last year being in Trebizond studying under Miss Halsey she joined the church there. Having returned home here she was seeking to place her letter with the church here when this occurs. Her mother is the daughter, grand daughter and great grand daughter of priests and this was to be to her a disgrace to have her daughter come into our fellowship. It is a great trial for the girl and we are praying for her . She has been one of the workers in the Sunday school and is our kindergarten teacher. We observed the week of prayer but we were disappointed in results. The truth is the church committee here are not active nor in fact are the old chuch memoers. Those that are coming in now are different and we are living in the future and doing what Dr. Judson of New York once said was necessary and that is live down certain men who are a hinderance to the work.. There are others who wish to enter at Easter and we shall ~~and~~ try and take care of them as they come into fellowship.

This winter already two of our community have passed away. One of these two use to be a worker in this field but of late years he had been working at his trade in the market. The second we buried yesterday and I am sorry to say had permitted his business to come between him and his Heavenly Father. Once a church member in the Harpoot field some where he came to this city twenty two years ago but had never brought his letter and his business which included the selling of wine and other like things he felt to be an obstacle to his church membership here.

Into the new Y/M/C/A quite a number of young men from the outside are coming. Dr. Underwood is doing good work here yet finds it hard at times to keep them within the traces. The latest is their desire to have theatricals and of course it is difficult for them to see our posistion. The dirth of material for any thing makes it hard to direct them but we hope to do so add show them that they can have as enjoyable a time aye and more instructive with less questionable things. No I do not judge other institutions of this land that indulge in such altho' think that the same energy put into real work for the Master would count for more and then would be a better example for others perhaps not so well favored,

This coming week we hope to pay a visit to our nearest village in the Pasen field..It is Komatsor where we sent a young man from Van who came to us this last Summer. During the winter the villagers are idle and have urged us to visit them at this time. It is not always convenient to go in the winter time but we are going to try it for this coming Sunday at which time we will observe the Lord's supper.

This leads me to the subject matter of your letter of Jan.10th This coming Fall I could give a couple of months to the field of Bitlis and in that time perhaps visit the entire field while ona visit to the Khanous portion of our field. The occupation of the Bitlis field is a question that is stirring us up here. Mr. Cole has strongly urged us to go there but we do not feel like leaving the work here when we begin to feel that we are seeing results of the policy that we had to introduce here. Had it been to Bitlis in the first place whenn I came from America why there would not have been any objection. But we feel that the work here in Erzroom has suffered in having missionaries come and then leave and so no continued policy for any length of time.

If Dr. Ussher succeeds in getting the steam launch on lake Van to-ward which we gave ten dollars it would seem that Van would be the best place from which to work the Bitlis field. Of course the launch has yet to prove itself a workable scheem. We do hope and pray that some way will open so that the Misses Ely will not be left there alone. There is the English vice-consul there who would be some protestion to them but they doubtless would feel more at ease with one more interested in the more than a consul would naturally be/

I was almost forgetting the appropriations which I received from you . The accompanying letter is to be read at our monthly meeting this coming Monday. I am glad to report that Miss Lord is able to look after the school work after a longer illness than usual.The rest of our circle are well. Dr. Underwood is very busy with the sick. He has performed an operation which has surprised the people here especially the Turks.We hope in time to see him with a good hospital here and believe that it is coming. One of our Boys' school teachers has been very sick under his care but is now convalescing.

Enclosed is a picture of our little Sibyl Louise at four mont or there abouts. All unite in greetings to you.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Tracheotomy

Erzroom - Turkey. Feb. 3 - 1906.

98

Rec'd MAR 29 1906

Erzroom Turkey March 6th, 1906.

Ans'd APR 4 1906

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Upon our return from a week's visit to the Pasin field I was greeted by your favor of Jan. 26th. I must ask pardon for a seeming oversight in approaching Mr Wiggin with the salary question in my favor to him of Dec. 19th. It occurred in this way. As treasurer of the station, Cple. informed me that some explaination would be nemessary at Boston along with the balance sheet and when I was explaining about the debts that Dr. Underwood and I had incurred this year it was a natural step from that to explaining what we had tried to do. Many thanks for your words upon this subject for we are now beginning a campaign here among the stations to see what they will do this year. A letter from Trebizond this morning says that their allowance is two hundred liras after the rent has been deducted. But I feel confident that no further argument is needed to convince you as you must understand the situation better than others who have not seen this field.

We had a very profitable week with the villages in Pasin. In one place where we spent the Sabbath we observed the Lord's Supper and received four new members into church fellowship. One of the number was a young man from a Gregorian family and he is the only one thus far to come over and join us. When one sees the opposition there is to such a step for a young man then we learn to appreciate the character of those taking it. He is a worker also and we pray that it may be the opening of the door to others. The brethern of that village and church are in earnest and are not setting about the building of a church and say they will do it even if they have to tear down their own houses to do it.

In another village we had an unpleasant experience with the church members for wishing to rid themselves of their pastor who has done faithful work according to his ability for nearly thirty years. They could not find fault with him but began to slander his wife until I called the pastor into the meeting and made them back down and swallow their words whereupon we left them and would not listen to them again but fellowshiped with the pastor whom we will try and moved elsewhere altho' it will be hard for him as he has been so long there. Yes indeed they are children and it is hard indeed to keep from treating them as such right before them.

Other villages we visited and find an enterance into them for schools as well as preachers the former opening the way for the latter. There was plenty opportunity for personal work especially as it was the feast just before the fast of Lent. The travelling was very good for winter and we experienced little trouble in going from one village to another. One night we were belated a little and it was dark ere we reached our stopping place and a snow storm made it worse but Our Heavenly Father knew where we were and after some little anxiety we got home.

I wish we could give as good report of the work in the city here but it has its ups and downs along with other things. The church committee is as short sighted as any I have ever seen. The young men's society hasm under Dr. Underwood's guidance being reaching out to others and many young men from out-side of the church have been attracted. These at times have taken part in the meeting even leading with such topics as" Is wine and cigars conducive to man's best welfare". But this is not strictly a spiritual subject says the committee and so they wish to have nothing like it in the church. So we have transferred our meetings to the Boys' school where we had a fuller meeting than ever this last Sunday. When we have the new Boys' school built we shall then have a room big enough to have such meetings in it as well as the Sunday school with which the above said committee is interferring but not

doing anything themselves. They are inviting a young man from the

Seminary at Marsovan who will be at liberty in May. As yet they do not know what the out-come will be. Our school work is moving a long. Miss Lord is far from strong just now but I hope we shall not be led to regret that we gave in to her to let her have the entire control of the work of the girls' school. From Miss Bushnell's letters we learn that she is far from well at her home in California. There is a thought which we have not broached to her nor do we wish to do so just now, but it is the suggestion of her staying in America for the second year. It is now ten months since she left here and here some these reports about her health. If she did this and it was arranged early enough Miss Foote is ready to stay here another year before she take her furlough granted her for this year. Then the new lady , for there is talk of one altho' we have not heard the first thing from Boston about it, would be here to help and the school work would go on as usual. But if Miss Bushnell does not return this year it seems to us all best to let the resignation handed in take effect. Please to give us your idea upon this subject while keeping it to ourselves. The circle with exception of Miss Lord has talked the matter over and think it not a bad plan that is provided Miss Bushnell finds herself unable to come back in the best of health. Before Miss Bushnell went home it had been her desire to remain home if possible two years and so take a little work in college for further preparation. But when Miss Lord would not accept Miss Foote on equal terms with herself in the work then Miss Bushnell planned to hurry back this Summer. It is the opinion of Dr. Stapleton who has been with Miss Bushnell the seven years she was here, that Miss Bushnell would do well to stay another year and see if she can regain her full health. While here Miss Bushnell tho' never hindered in her work as a rule because of health yet always suffered with headache and was anemic. Notwithstanding the opinion of the principal of the school we think Miss Foote well able and qualified to take charge of the school. This was seen as she took charge of the school for a month during Miss Lord's illness about Xmas time. The latter lady might have retained her as a helper but would not and so it goes. All this we are keeping to ourselves altho' natives cannot help but see that there is something in which they have no inkling.

In looking over a circular letter of 1901 I notice the subject of furloughs which says that the minimum for the first period was to be eight years. This time for me here has gone by. Now the question with us is whether to ask for a furlough beginning from the Spring of next year that is 1907 when we or I will have been on the field nine years and over. I know that it says that there is no stated time that earns a furlough, but if in case of health one might be given. Well I have good health and hope to keep many years for the climate and things agree with me here. Yet notwithstanding this I feel the need of getting away from here to see my parents for the last time and to keep in touch with the rapid strides of the Westerners, for it is slow work "trying to hustle the East". I hope the building here by that time will be finished. Another "stroke of bad luck" for us is the collapsing of our large and mission-wide famed barn. This occurred four weeks ago with little warning. We got our live stock out just five minutes before the crash came so there was no loss of life. No we will not ask for help to rebuild it but will do so only on a smaller scale. My little ones are well thank you as well as Mrs Stapleton. All unite in greetings to you and Mrs Barton:

Fraternally yours

Erzroom- Mar. 6-1906.

Rec'd APR 30 1906
Rec'd MAY 2 1906
Rec'd MAY 2 1906

Erzroom Turkey April 7th 1906.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

In my last letter to you there was a report of a visit we were able to make to the village of Komatsor. It was the week before their lenten season and as you know the last week is known as Paregentan or carnival. This along with the Great Fast about to begin gave us good subjects for our talks to them. We endeavored to show them what the Fast might do for them if kept in a true way. Since our return there has occurred something that is indeed encouaging. The first week of the great Fast the church had a two days fast which time was given to prayer and meditation. At the end of that time the church came to-gether again for prayer and altho' before it was known as a praying church now they seem to have had a baptism of the Holy Spirit afresh and the prayers that went forth were filled with the new light. Women prayed inthe public meeting which is an uncommon thing for this part of the land. An after meeting was called for special prayers and workers and this was well attended .

But the influence did not stay within the membership only. In the village there seemed to be something new and during the week of meetings fourteenn young men who came occassionly to hear the preaching came and joined themselves to the little company and began to pray with the church members. These joined the after meeting something very like the Methodist Class meeting where all take part. These fourteen from Gregorian homes with the members of the church were going from house to house reading the bible and praying. Already there are some wishing to unite with the church altho' we had just received four into fellowship in February.

One case is especially worthy of notice for it meant to the young man giving up home, parents and all that pertained to such in this land. He is a young man about twenty two years and from boy-hood had been a singer in the old church and at times had led morning and evening worship in the absnce of the priest. He began to show an independence of thought that some thought was not in accordance with the doctrines of the old church. They called him Protestant which under such circumstances is a bitter name especially in this village. But he said he was not but merely believed what he read in God's word and they could not show that Word for all their doctrines. This was too much for them and so rather than discuss the matter with him they forbid him the church. Upon coming home his parents grew angry and put him out of the house and he went over to his wife' home where she was staying on a visit for she is a protestant or rather let us say a Christian and with out doubt her influence had begun to tell upon him. Since being put out of his father's home he spends most of his time with our worker there reading the bible for more light. During a short and needed visit that the worker made to the city here the young man took up the duties of the teacher and kept school while the teacher was here.

Aagain we are approaching a communion season here in the cit which brings with it some causes for rejoicing. Two women, five or rather six girls and four boys have been before the committee seeking admittance into church fellowship. Only three of the entire mber are from Protestants families. The witness given by boys and girls was very clear . This is the second time since Christmas that such a company of children for so they seem to us from our schools have come before the committee. Our communion season is a week later and this week with the coming week we have early morning prayer meetings with better results than usual for generally the prayer meeting dwindles down to what the boys call "a preach."

From Erzroom #2.

A word as to the conditions of affairs here in the city so that any wild rumor may be met by the truth. Two weeks or more ago word came from Cple. about certain taxes that had been increased until the people began to protest against them. The method was perhaps at fault but such might be the result of the condition here. At any rate the protest was made by the Turkish population to the governor who it was said promised to wire Cple. telling of the protest. The governor of the province receives a salary of Lt. 300.00 or $1320.00 a month. To this the people began to object saying that it was here and like places where all our taxes are going. When no favorable answer came to their protest then they began to protest against the Governor and demand his removal which has been accomplished and he was to leave to-day. I have not heard if such has taken place that is that he has gone or not. Now for more than a week they have forced the market to be closed as as a silent yet powerful protest and they gave it out as their determination to keep it closed till their demands were met. At first soldiers paraded the streets but latterly this was not so for the peaceful spirit of the people was manifested. All has been quiet and to-day the shops are opened. The Armenians were one with the Turks in this and added a little plea of their own and that was that their acting bishop also go. This is not by the entire people but by a large number of them . This is not sure as the other was but some say that he is going. Several causes are at the bottom of this move. Mostly character whereas against the Governor as far we know and this is what the consuls say. It would seem that he has been made a scape goat for some one or thing. He was a great help to us in his friendliness to us. there is nothing

We are all ready to start on our school wall but the frost has not left us as yet and at times there is a hard frost at night which would not do the walls much good. In a week or so we shall begin in earnest.

It looks doubtful whether we shall have an annual meeting t this year as Mardin, Bitlis are against it and we know not how Harpoot is. As Mardin are to be the hosts of the rest of the mission it is almost impossible to thrust ourselves upon them as guests. We are ready to go but if others do not wish it why we shall have to be content with a station meeting on all subjects pertaining to us as a statioN

Greetings from our circle to you and Mrs Barton

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

From Everson #2.

A word as to the conditions of affairs here in the city so that any wild rumor may be met by the truth. Two weeks or more ago word came from Ophe. about certain taxes that had been increased until the people began to protest against them. The method was perhaps at fault but such might be the result of the condition here. At any rate the protest was made by the Turkish population to the governor who it was said promised to wire Ophe. telling of the protest. The governor of the province receives a salary of Lt. 300.00 or $1320.00 a month. To this the people began to object saying that it was here and like places where all our taxes are going. When no favorable answer came to their protest then they began to protest against the Governor and demand his removal which has been accomplished and he was to leave to-day. I have not heard if such has taken place that is that he has gone or not. For more than a week they have forced the market to be closed as a silent yet powerful protest and they gave it out as their determination to keep it closed till their demands were met. At first soldiers paraded the streets but latterly this was not so for the peaceful spirit of the people was manifested. All has been quiet and to-day the shops are opened. The Armenians were one with the Turks in this and added a little plea of their own and that was that their acting bishop also go. This is not by the entire people but by a large number of them. This is not sure as the other was but some say that he is going. Several causes are at the bottom of this move. Mostly character whereas against the Governor as far we know and this is what the consuls say. It would seem that he has been made a scape goat for some one or thing. He was a great help to us in his friendliness to us.

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Greetings from our circle to you and Mrs Barton

Fraternally yours

Geo. A. Stapleton

Rec'd JUN 19 1906 100

Erzroom Turkey May 26th. 1906.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Your latest favor came to this place by to-day's post. In my last favor to you we spoke of the coming of a new Vali to this post. He is here but as yet we know not what he will do. Both Dr. Underwood and I called upon him twice. Rather an old man for such a place which may mean a change in policy altho' as far as the Turkish population are concerned altho' they are ready to rise up he seems to be having a soothing influence upon them. Our English consul has not had anything to bring before him as yet, but we have one or two matters to bring up. Yet both of these affect us indirectly but the work. The first is in point of time the desecration of the cemetary belonging to the community in that some ill disposed or mischievous persons have scaled the walls and overturned the gravestones. But then it is little care that the place gets at the hands of the community. The second thing affects one of the churches in the villages. Soldiers have been lodged next door to the church and often disturb the meetings and their presence there is an obstacle to church going as far as the girls and brides are concerned . This also affects the school These two things will be called to his attention this week. Our city is otherwise quiet just now and there seems to be no hindrance to our freedom at all. Just now Dr. Underwood and Miss Foote are touring in Pasin and I expect to go to Komatsor for June 3rd. to receive quite a few into church fellowship.

One of the most annoying things here is the treatment the custom-house offical gives us and it seems impossible to get at him for the English consul has tried it without any success so far. Altho' our boxes are opened and examined in Trebizond they are subjected to the most thorough scrutiny here and every means taken to add to the expense of the goods coming into the country. It may be that he is obeying instructions from head quarters. We ought by rights to be free from the inspection here after they are once examined in Trebizond and that was the rule once. But things have changed. Our Postum will be taxed because it is called ground coffee. A pound of grass seed will also come under that list as it is not given in the list of free from duty even for us. An express wagon for the children is taxed for that is not used in the work. And so it goes till our box agent is beside himself with the trouble they give him. It is merely the head man for the clerks ' would not take such trouble but are forced to do so by their superior. Even if they were to charge duty on all the goods it would hardly pay them for all the trouble they take. Nay it has seemed to me that it would be less expensive to us in money and labor to pay the duty in the first place. Our consul in Trebizond charges us two dollars for the paper he makes out each time to say that the boxes are for us. A similar paper is required here but our English consul does not charge us for his seal on this paper or I fear that what with Boston and then Trebizond it would just bury us or our boxes out of sight.

Just now we are busy with the construction of the Boy's school and we are near the top of the first story. It was our desire to have it ready so that we could have the commencement exercises in it but the rains and the delay at the quarés have put that aside. After my visit to Komatsor and Erzingan I will have occasion to write again. I note what you say about the control of the Girl's school and the station agree with you but I have neither time nor strength to continue the discussion. We are only waiting for the day to come when we shall be free from that which has sadden the entire year. Greetings from Mrs Stapleton and myself to you and Mrs Barton.

Fraternally yours Robt. S. Stapleton

Robert N. Stapleton

Brownsville, Texas

May 26-1906.

Rec'd NOV 14 1906
Ans'd FEB 1 1907

Erzroom Turkey October 23rd. 1906.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

I have several letters from you unanswered. One chief reason has been sickness in our home. Most of the Summer vacation our little Eleanor has been very sick with typhoid. At the same time the building of the boys' school occupied my attention as it was to be ready for the new school year. The school part was ready for the opening and every one is delighted with it. We had a some what of an informal opening when we welcomed our new pastor for the church here Bar Hovhannes Sinanian who has just finished his seminary studies at Marsovan. Our large audience room was not overcrowded altho' we had more than the church could have held comfortably and all had a pleasant evening. But more about the building later on when I shall send you a picture of it as completed.

I was planning to visit some of the villages nay our entire field some three weeks ago and as there was much small pox round it was thoght best to have me vacinated and in fact the entire circle that is the adults were vacinated. Mine was the only one that took and it did take with a vengence. I was in bed almost two weeks with a very severe case of varaioloid which came near being the genuine article itself. I am just up from that that. My plan was to start out this week when another obstacle has sprung up and that is the condition of the city here which took a bad turn today. I wrote I think of the demonstration here this last Spring against a new tax . It was a peaceful demonstration and went no further than closing the market for a week.

Three of the leaders of the former affair were arrested last night and started toward Cple. This caused a disturbance last night and again to-day the market is closed. One offical has lost his life but it is simply against those in authorities and there is not so far anyn feeling against the Christians. What the outcome will be we do not see but Mr Shipley our consul here thought it would be unsafe to leave the city while the matter is thus and I may have to defer my visit for still another week.

We have noted what you have said about the Rev. Enoch Der Stepaniantz but do not feel drawn toward him. He has either been misinformed in regard to the facts about the Russian field or he is favoring the one faction that would discount the ordained minister Bad Hovhannes Kaloustian who is living at Samaghar but who has again and again visited the villages of which he speaks. This ordained pastor is the only worker we have over there and we do not feel like increasing the number until we will be able to look after the workers there. Just now our budget only gives 24 liras a year or at the most thirty that is when we give extra for travelling expenses so you see there is not so much to work upon even if he should come back there to work. There is a good field to work but it cannot be done except in person. Dr. Underwood and I were thinking of trying it this Fall but the unrest over there just now makes us feel it unwise to try it just now. I will have more to write about that field a little later and of the strife there among the church that was handed down to us from our predecessors. Our post is called for earlier to-day as it is to go down with that of the consul's and so give our man a same escort thro' the market.

We give God thanks that both our Eleanor and myself have been preserved thro' our sicknesses and once more we are in good health. Glad to say that the church have come forward right royally in aid for their new pastor who during his school days had but little opportunity to furnish a house. We entertained him the first two days since which most of the members have invited him and family to eat with them. ; Greetings to you and Mrs Barton from us all.

Fraternally yours Robt. S. Stapleton

Robert S. Stapleton

Erzroom-Turkey Oct. 23-1906.

Rec'd NOV 26 1906
Ans'd FEB 7 1907

Erzroom Turkey Nov. 3rd. 1906.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

During the past week things have improved very much in our city. A new Commander of the forces has affairs in charge and tho' a fairly good fellow for these parts he will not put up with much looseness by the mob. The Vali awaits the coming of his successor whom I understand to be the Vali from Harpoot. If I mistake not he is a good one and where as we rejoice at his coming we feel sorry that Harpoot is to lose him if he is a good man. I hope to leave for a visit to the villages of Khanous and Passin this coming Tuesday to be gone three weeks and hope to get back ere the heavy snows come.

This week we have started a course of French in our school. A division in the Catholic community or some thing has closed their school and we have a number of their boys. It was thought if we had French we might get more and this just fitted in well with the needs of our new pastor, who has had a good deal of French and he was willing to take up the work to help out his salary, whi-ch is rather small to begin with and then he has just come from school and is in great need of funds. A beginners' class comprising most of our teachers both of the boys' and girls' schools has also begun and we hope for good success from this move.

The two votes (necessarily inter-sessional as we are having no annual meetings now) show what we are planning for. Miss Bushnell did not care to vote either way regarding Miss Foote's return so the vote left us without her name. I am sorry to say that Miss Bushnell is troubled just now about an attack of tonsilitis but we hope it will soon pass. It is too bad that she does not have a companion in her work . It would make it much safer for her rearding her health. Of course she is aware as much as any one what is needed in the way of out-door walking and such but fails to find time for it some weeks.

I have here a fairly good double magic lantern, that is for disolving views and I have quite a few plates of scenes of things around here. The latter of course I will bring. But would it pay to have the former that is the lantern with me or trust to getting one there. I have used the Siris lamp which uses alcohol and the Manchon. It gives a fairly good light and is better to carry about than a more elaborate affair. The question is about the lantern. Would such a thing be dutiable? Or would it be counted as part of ones personal goods used in one's work. I shall try to bring a native suit or two home with me and I have several rugs that we h have had in our home that I will bring.

Our new pastor is working well in the pulpit and giving our people some good practical lessons.

Glad to hear that the million mark was reached ere the meeting occurred. I was laid up the week of the meeting but I follow what meager program we had of the meetings day by day.

I see since sending our request for an advance in salary that all the mission do not agree with us. I do not want to be unfair with any, but it is a question how many of these have not some personal account with which to help out. Where there are no children on the field the expenses are not so large. Here this winter flour is more than a third higher and other things in like manner. It is feared that again our accounts will overrun the allowance permitted. Miss Lord was one in our station who would not ask for an increase but she had friends who helped her out to a large degree as you saw when she received from them $400.00 to come home with.

Greetings for the season of Thanksgiving. This past week we celebrated our wedding anniversary and the circle dined with us. am preparing a number of pictures for you of the buildings as hey are now and I do hope I am to have a rest from building; for ltho' it is something I like it is not what I came here to do s a steady thing. Greetings from us all to you and Mrs. Barton.

Fraternally yours Robt. S. Stapleton

Robert S. Stapleton

Erzroom - Turkey. Nov 3-1906.

Erzroom Turkey February 23rd. 1907.

Rev. E. E. Strong D.D.
14 Beacon Street.
Boston Mass. U.S.A.

MAR 18 1907

Dear Dr. Strong:-

APR 29 1907

We were very pleased to receive your favor by the post this morning and all the more so that it treated upon the subject that is occupying our minds just now and is of unflagging interest to our little girls. The thought of the second who is just past three years is that she is going home to grandma Lizzie's and that there she will have a pet lamb to play with.

It has seem best to us to leave here a little early that is in the Spring so that our return may be earlier enough next year to prepare for school for which there will be some work. We have heard that there is going to be an International Sunday school convention in Rome somewhere in May. It is getting rather late for a reply from Boston but we have failed to get any word from other places. We would like to attend that convention as it is going to deal largely with Missionary schools and their work. You see we feelthe need of getting in touch with the best workers both for methods and for inspiration. Can you get any information pertaining to this said convention forwarded to us. A gift from a friend will enable us to attend the convention as far as the money part of it is concerned . This will be putting the gift to a double use for it will give us the great pleasure of seeing Rome and in the second place we hope to be benefited by the convention for our further usefulness here. May I ask the favor that this be seen to with dispatch as it will need to be so to reach us in time for our leaving here.

Last December I wrote Dr. Barton but I fear the letter did not reach Boston till after He left that city. In it were some questions asked about bringing some plates home for the magic lantern and if I should bring the lantern home also to use while

speaking at home. We shall be in the States very soon after the first of July all being well. My sister is now visiting in England where she came for the purpose of visiting and of meeting us on our way back home.

As a circle we are in fairly good health and all hard at work As to the condition of affairs here, for doubtless you are reading in some of the papers about the disturbed conditions here, a word might be said. There is a feeling that something is going to happen here soon. What its nature will be is not clear except that it will against the "powers that be" unless their demand for reform be met. Those of the ruling class here or rather "race" who are agitating matters are detimmined in their resolve to get these demands yet at the same time they are doing all in their power to keep order and to prevent for the time being any race question. It is a fact that the christian population that is the Armenians are meeting with more or less oppression perhaps more than the last few years, but that is not because of a regular policy on the part of the ruling race but rather but rather because the central government of the province here has been weakened this past twelve months by having two of its governor generals ejected from office by the mob and in the last affair two polive officals were killed and as yet (this took place last October) no mone has been called to an account for it. This has demoralized their authority and in the villages many who are dissolute feel the freedom of the times and are acting according. We have no apprehension whatever, yet know not what the events will be. We are safe in His keeping Who doeth all things well. Rumor has it that something may be expected in March I do not mean to say that there is no restriction to crime for we have had some good and very noticeable instances to the contrary. The troubles of which the Armenians complain are small nagging actions that make life almost unbearable for them.

This is not for publication for there are many who would make capital out of it to the detriment of the Armenians just now.

I must now close as it is nearing post time. We expect to have an ordination here before I leave. It was our hope that there might be two but some of the customs of these people are agin things moving especially quickly.

Greetings from our entire circle.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Rev. R. S. Stapleton

Erzroum, Feb. 23, 1907

Rec'd APR 12 1907

Erzroom Turkey March 18th, 1907.

Ans'd APR 29 1907

Rev. R. F. Bell
14 Beacon Str.
Boston Mass.

Dear Mr Bell:-

Your kind favor the 7th. of February came to hand a couple of weeks ago just before I started out for a short tour into one of our nearest fields. It is some time since I have written, because of sickness in our home and of extra work which has come upon us in view of our coming home this year. I am glad to say that the sickness has passed and we are all well with the exception of colds that the weather will not permit to escape altho' after the treatment they receive from our hands, I am sure they wish to get out of our house.

It rejoices us to hear what you say about our furlough being granted us even tho' for the year it will leave this field without an ordained missionary in it. We are just filled with plans for the visit home. The children are eagerly looking forward to the time when they shall see grand-mas and grand-pas.

Upon your recommendation I shall bring the lantern which I have now had some five years. It is an English make and good enough to interest the people in the villages and smaller towns where they have not such opportunitées. I have my own slides of this land ot of this section of this land.

I think since writing Dr. Barton, we have decided to leave here in May. First of all to be able to attend the S.S. convention in Rome which the gift of a friend will enable us to do as far as the financial part of the trip is concerned. Then again by being home in July we shall be able to start back next year in time to prepare for the opening of school and to prepare our home in the school building ere the work of the Autumn begins. If you think it necessary for me to visit Boston ere going to my home in Michigan then I can come from ~~Boston~~ New York the first of July, for now that my

brother has become pastor of the Emanuel Church of Brooklyn we expect to spend a few days there. From Rome we plan to visit England my former home where my sister is now waiting for us and she will return to the States with us the latter part of June.

As we shall leave here the last of April there will be no time for an answer here. A letter sent to Constantinople not later than April 15th. will reach me there. Then May 24 th. will reach us at Rome for we expect on the 25th. to leave for London and Manchester England. Later movements will be reported in a following letter.

Greetings from our entire circle to you and a welcome to the work in which we are all united.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Enclosed "Pour notre Pain Doit" x
M. E. S.

Copy

March 18-1914

OCT 28 1907

129

Saginaw Michigan October 24th. 1907.

v. James L. Barton D.D.
14 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

We cannot express the great pleasure that the Board meetings in Cleveland gave us and we are continually referring to it. Since our return home we have put ourselves in touch with Dr. Hitchcock and he has responded with suggestions which we are putting into play. Our first efforts are to be given in the Detroit Association in which territory we are when at Lapeer where Mrs Stapleton's home is. This Association meets at Lapeer or rather Metamora in Lapeer County this next Monday and this we shall attend and thus become acquainted with the pastors of that Association many of whom are already known to us.

I promised you that while in Cleveland to write you regarding the salary allowance of the Erzroom field . We have felt for some years that it is not enough to meet the needs of a family there. This is substantiated by t the debt that we brought back with us and which we are trying to meet by taking but half an allowance while at home. I do not mean to say that we can do this but we are trying and we shall hope that the Board may assume anyt thing that will remain of it when we return so that we shall not begin with a debt when we go back. Since we first went there in 1897 living has increased in expensiveness. Fuel becomes scarcer and so dearer and we try to get along with as little fire as possible. Last year we paid out $130.00 for our little home. Oil has gone up in price and last year we paid 45 piasters a box while when we first went there we got it for as low as 33 piasters. But I do not think that you need a long list of things of prices to demonstrate the fact that living is much higher than it was formerly. Where we alone it might be said, it lay with our method of living. Dr. Underwood as careful a man as there is on the field finds the same true there in Erzroom.Most of our household articles come to us from outside thro' Trebi-

zond and there is added the cost of transportation to the price that such articles might bring in Trebizond. We compared the cost of living in the two places and found that while some things such as help were higher there the cheapness of fruit wood(or the less amount needed) flour, sugar &c. brought the amount of living to about the same or if anything to the favor of Trebizond.

At our meeting in Van two years ago Erzroom brought up the question of considering this matter. It was referred to committee on finance and r reported back unfavorably and this without the committee asking any question of those presenting the matter nor of the conditions under which we were laboring, nor did any of them know them as not one had been to our city for at least eight years and some had never seen.it.

Then we asked that a committee be appointed to look into the matter a and report for the next meeting which meeting did not take place but the different stations wrote their own opinions about the subject. Now we have not had the opportunity to know what these are nor the conditions of the other stations altogether. But we do know that we in Erzroom cannot live there on the allowance and keep out of debt. Last year the W.B.M.I. gave to Miss Bushnell the increase that we asked for in the estimates. This Summer following the suggestion of Boston submitted the question again to the Mission this time asking for relief for the Erzroom station. The result is not altogether known to us but from some quarters there seems to be the tendency to discount the needs there and the faithful gaurding the Board's treasury makes them think it unwise to ask for the Trebizond allowance as a basis for Erzroom. We do not know the conditions in other places but feel if a station asked for such a question to be presented to the Board at Boston we would not hinder it as it has been hindered these three years. I feel deeply upon the matter as it may result in our loosing Dr. Underwood from t the field who says he cannot stand the strain of a debt over his head and

he would have to leave this work if relief were not forthcoming.

While in Cleveland you asked if I thought 200 liras as a basis would be sufficient for Erzroom. That would be a raise of about one seventh over what we were getting before. I do not think it would . From careful observance tion it would seem that the cost of living there has incresed one fourth and the increse in allowance ought to be nearer that figure , say the allowance of Trebizond. We are not giving this as an ultimatum at all but we are giving what seems to us to be the needs of the place.

While we are speaking for Erzroom we do not forget that Van and Bitlis have similar needs. Many have had to draw upon private funds to make ends meet. Misses Ely say that they could not live on double the allowance of a single lady. Miss Mc. Laren when in Van and Miss Norton there now had to use funds of their own. You perhaps know better than I the condition of Dr Usher and Mr Yarrow both of whom told me they had been forced to meet their needs by outside help. I know that there is not much of this kind of help with many of us and so feel that relief at once is needed for Erzroom Van and Bitlis if a new man is to go there. //

See Supplemental Sept 5

At a later date I wish to call your attention to a piece of property there in Erzroom which is in my name held for the orphanage work there but which must be sold upon our return so that the orphange account which is greatly overdrawn may be relieved. This is the house in which we have been living these last six years the nicest little house for a home right opposite the Girls' school. If we are to have another missionary family there in Erzroom then this is the house forthem and we ought to keep it as Mission property. But at another time I can write more fully about this .

With greetings to you and Mrs Barton. I would consider it a favor to be informed what is done about the allowance matter this Fall.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Robert A. Stapleton

Saginaw Mich. Oct. 24-1907.

Com. on Appro.

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re increase salary

" sale house

d NOV 4 1907

/9

R.F.D.#1. Metamora Mich Nov. 2nd. 1907.

Rev. E. F. Bell .
L4 Beacon Str. Boston Mass.

My Dear Mr Bell:-

Your kind favor of the 29th. umtl. was forwarded from Saginaw to me here at Mrs Stapleton's home. Thanking you for the news in the first part of your favor I hasten to give you the information that you ask about the residences of the Missionary force in Erzroom. The Board owns three pieces of property in Erzroom as follows. The Large Missionary house where Dr. Underwood now lives and the lower part of this building is being used for hospital purposes as well as three rooms out side which Dr. Underwood had constructed with an eye to the use of it as a hospital. After Mr. Chambers left that field, we occupied that house and in a year or so shared it with the teachers of the girls' school who boarded with us. Then when the earth quake took the girls' school building we opened our doors and lessened our own room and took them in. But this was too much and we felt that we must get out of there. Having money in hand for the Orphan work I used it in buying a place which we rented from the orphanage and paid our rent into them . This is the house for sale and I can say it is as cosy a house as there is around there. There is also the Girls' school property where once there was a Missionary residence as well as the Girls' school and rooms for the teachers of the Girls' school. We received permission from Boston to use the American Board property or this residence on behalf of th Girls School. The school enlarged occupies the entire ground and the American teachers live there. The third piece of property is that occupi by the Boys' school. This building was just completed this past year and when we return we are planning to live in the boys' school building or we will make the attempt. The House which must be sold in order to help out the orphanage account is just opposite the Girls' school and on that account is a desireable location for a Missionary residence for it is a help to the school. If another family is sent out there , and this we hope is going to happen for we need one very much if we are to work that field as it should be worked and reached then here is a house for them that would make them feel at home if any house would in that cold region.

Colonel A. Stapleton

Dr. Underwood writes that Mr Peet is urging him to sell the house and so help out the orphanage account.As our numbers become fewer the cost per capita for keeping them is increased. We held this fund for this tim There are those who wish to buy it and when there I was offered as much for it as was given for it some six or seven years ago which shows that it is a good place and location. If Dr. Underwood was to sell just now it might be construed by them that it was needed the worst way and the former bid might be with drawn. Whereas on the other hand if it were left till our return and then the parties now occupying it would bring up the question we would still hold our price which isLt. 440.00. We did place some improvements upon the property so that it is worth that sum now. Before leaving I leased it for two years at a good rental which after the taxes are paid brings almost five percent on the sum invested there.

I hope the Board will see its way to take over this house for it would then give us the assurance that it does intend to give us the much needed reinforcements along the line of regular missionary work. The property is in my name and the deed is there in the Erzroom safe. Dr. Underwood asks for power of attorney to sell it but I am writing him to wait till we can hear from Boston. The house is rented till next Easter altho' the rentee is one who would like to buy the property.

I was very pleased to have met you there in Cleveland and now as letters come and go there is an added interest in them having seen the persons face to face. Thank you we are all well and thankful for Devine protection. Last Mrs. S. and I along with her brother were tipped into a six foot ditch but without any serious results.We were riding home from a visit and I fear the driver was asleep for no other cause will satisfy the case. Greetings to you from the both of us.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

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Fraternally yours

Return a Check

Nov. 2-1904

Rec'd NOV 4 1907

107

19

R.F.D. #L. Metamora Mich. Nov.2nd. 1907

Rev. James L. Barton D. D.
14 Beacon Street Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

A week or more ago a letter left here for you regarding the need of an increase in allowance for the Erzroom field. I am informed that you have the letter. Of course I do not single out Erzroom to the exclusion of all other stations for as I said then, Van and Bitlis are in the same trouble as we are.

This letter comes to add an item which has just come from Erzroom but which fact is doubtless known to you before this. It is that the Trebizond basis as an allowance has been raised to 250.00 Lt. It has just occurred to me that this may be a reccommendation passed by the W.T.M. altho' Mr. Partridge spoke in Cleveland as tho' it had been established for Sivas that is the increased allowance tho' not the same amount as Trebizond. Mr. Bell mentioned the fact that you had in mind an increase of 25Lt. to what we have now. This would be about a seventh more than before. This does not seem sufficient to meet the almost one fourth increase in the living expenses of the last decade. Surely if Trebzond felt that the former 225.00 Lt. was not sufficient for them then certainly no less an amount than 225.00 would enable us to keep above water in Erzroom. Not only ourselves but others have said that it costs just as much to live in Erzroom as in Trebizond. In Erzroom we have not even a garden where we might raise a little green stuff for the table and all this has to be brought from the market. Nor is there a fruit tree near that might help us in that line of fruit and food. What we are working for in this is also that we be able to keep Dr. Underwood with us. He has put no little money in there, that is gifts from friends and to have him leave now would indeed cripple our work there . I do not know what can be said to make our appeal stronger but it is imperative that the increase be sufficient to meet the incresed demand in the expense account.

Mr. Peet is demanding an almost impossible thing about the sale of the house in which we have been living the sale to take place in time to make the semiannual accounts right. It is orpahanage money and as the numbers are becoming less the amount per capita for keeping increased. Here is a fact that touches on the upper question mentioned above. The amount given for an orphan which may be sufficient for other places in Turkey has never been sufficient for Erzroom for the cost of living is so great and I can assure you that the living is not great at all. The account have to be closed in a month . The property is in my name and to get out the power of attorney and send it would require more time. Then I am waiting to see if the Board are going to give us some hope of the much needed reinforcements for Erzrrom by providing a good home for the new family when one is offered to them. It is right opposite the girls' school and so is in a good location as regards the work and gives an added security to that school and the teachers living there. It is the cosiest home place I know of in that city or in that quarter. There are houses that are bigger but not as cosy and as compact which is a great factor where the country is so cold.

I shall certainly await your reply to both these matters with great interest. Greetings from Mrs Stapleton and myself .

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

R.F.D. #1. Metamora Mich. Nov.2nd. 1907

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14 Beacon Street Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

A week or more ago a letter left here for you regarding the need of an increase in allowance for the Erzroom field. I am informed that you have the letter. Of course I do not single out Erzroom to the exclusion of all other stations for as I said then Van and Bitlis are in the same trouble as we are.

This letter comes to add an item which has just come from Erzroom but which fact is doubtless known to you before this. It is that the Trebizond basis as an allowance has been raised to 250.00 lt. It has just occurred to me that this is a recommendation passed by the W.T.M. altho' Mr. Partridge spoke in Cleveland as tho' it had been established, for Sivas that is the increased allowance tho' not the same amount as Trebizond. Mr. Bell mentioned the fact that you had in mind an increase of 25lt. to what we have now. This would be about a seventh more than before. This does not seem sufficient to meet the almost one fourth increase in the living expenses of the last decade. Surely if Trebizond felt that the former 225.00 lt. was not sufficient for them then certainly no less an amount than 225.00 would enable us to keep above water in Erzroom. Not only ourselves but others have said that it costs just as much to live in Erzroom as in Trebizond. In Erzroom we have not even a garden where we might raise a little green stuff for the table and all this has to be brought from the market. Nor is there a fruit tree near that might help us in that line of fruit and food. What we are working for in this is also that we be able to keep Dr. Underwood with us. He has put no little money in there that is gifts from friends and to have him leave now would indeed cripple our work there. I do not know what can be said to make our appeal stronger but it is imperative that the increase be sufficient to meet the increased demand in the expense account.

Mr. Peet is demanding an almost impossible thing about the sale of the house in which we have been living the sale to take place in time to make the semiannual accounts right. It is orphanage money and as the numbers are becoming less the amount per capita for keeping increased. Here is a fact that touches on the upper question mentioned above. The amount given for an orphan which may be sufficient for other places in Turkey has never been sufficient for Erzroom for the cost of living is so great and I can assure you that the living is not great at all. The accounts have to be closed in a month. The property is in my name and to get out the power of attorney and send it would require more time. Then I am waiting to see if the Board are going to give us some hope of the much needed reinforcements for Erzroom by providing a good home for the new family when one is offered to them. It is right opposite the girls' school and so is in a good location as regards the work and gives an added security to that school and the teachers living there. It is the coziest home place I know of in that city or in that quarter. There are houses that are bigger but not as cozy and as compact which is a great factor where the country is so cold.

I shall certainly await your reply to both these matters with great interest. Greetings from Mrs Stapleton and myself.

Fraternally yours

Metamora-Duck-
Nov-2-1907.

DEC 2 1907

108

R.F.D. #1. Metamora Mich. Nov. 28th. 1907.

Dear DR. Barton:-

Your favor of the 13th. inst. came to hand while I was away on a speaking tour. It was forwarded to me but failed to reach me till after I had returned here.

In regard to the question brought up in your letter viz, about the part of our work which has been in the Russian Empire, that is, in the Trans-Caucus. Dr. Underwood and I are one in our opinion about our suspending sending money into that section until we are permitted to visit and see the work. This has come to me from experience during the last ten years in Erzroom. Thro' correspondence alone one is not able to direct a work and we have found this to be the way here and that has been why we have failed to make a report of that field. Furthermore the results would show that there is need of suppervision if we are going to carry on the work further. Our ordained man wishes to leave that land and field come to this country. There is no one there to carry on the work. I remember that Dr. Crawford of Trebizond made a visit to that part of the land a year or more ago and came back with a glowing account and with great hopes of the work. I must confess that we have had no such insight into the state of affairs there and it may be if some one was on the field it would be different yet I do not think that it would be a better field than the one on the Turkish side of the line.

It is not our opinion that the work in that land should be given up altogether altho' that may be what the decision would be were we to know the field to the best manner possible but we think that till we can see the work in person it would be better to suspend sending money there.

A Sweedish society is at work there but to what extent I do not know. Their head quarters are in Tiflis. We hear of them visiting the villages over there and these men of that region have all expenses paid by the missionary and it is a detriment to our work where we try to get

the people to pay a part of the workers who visit some of these villages We thought that if a visit from a worker is a benefit to a comunity it ought at least to see the worker on the road to the next village. But when we begin to speak of self-support in this way we are confronted with the statement given above. None of these villages have been asked to pay anything to the salary of these our workers and so we began by asking them to see the man on his way as far as the next place. We have had no results from these visits altho' they claim to belong to the evangelical part of the Armenian people.

This week I received a letter from one of our workers which I will enclose. You will overlook the English used but what I wanted you to see was the miserable condition of the villages in one part of the Erzroom field. I am just about to start out on another trip to visit the churches around here and this will form a message to the churches. We have had a very pleasant Thanksgiving Day with the friends at the home of Mrs Stapleton. By Christmas we hope to be in Saginaw with my parents. Greetings to you and Mrs. Barton from Mrs. Stapleton and myself.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

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We have had a very pleasant Thanksgiving Day with the friends at the home of Mrs Stapleton. By Christmas we hope to be in Sagimew with my parents. Greetings to you and Mrs Barton from Mrs Stapleton and myself.

Fraternally yours

Fraternal-Pacific
Dec-28-1907

REC'D JAN 1 1908

1004
~~1004~~ Holland Ave. Saginaw Mich. Dec. 27th. 1907.

Rev. Enoch F. Bell,
14 Beacon Street
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr Bell:- Your kind favor of the 21st. inst. came to hand this week and I thank you for the news in it. Letters from Erzroom had not mentioned matter of the Bitlis field. I have just received a card from Mr. Cole in which he makes no note of it either. I do hope that he will be successful in his search for the proper man for that field.

For the next three months our head quarters will be at the address given above. Some of the time I expect to be out speaking but this next month I shall be here in the city for family reasons. These last two months have been spent in speaking among the churches of two associations of this state under the direction of Dr. Hitchcock of Chicago. My next trip will be under the direction of Dr. Foster the president of the state missionary society for Michigan.

Dr. Underwood writes that he has already sold that house of which we were speaking. It had been our home for the past six years and a very cosy one it proved to be. When we return we plan to try living above the school for we have a good number of rooms there and I think it can be done . In this way we can get nearer the boys who are there as boarders and often it would seem that they need such an influence over them while in the home that will help them later on. I mean that it is an opportunity to help them in a way that we have not when they are merely in the school during the day. It is too bad that we have no hope for Erzroom in the matter of reinforcements. In 1894 and before that time there were three families there where for the past eight years there has been but one. How can work be done to the best advantage when the force is so crippled. True Dr. Underwood is there now but his work keep him busy along a new line.

I am glad to hear that an appeal is to be made for the poor villagers in the province of Erzroom. I have seen their poverty these last years and know it to be beyond discription. Not because of the oppression of the government althogether but thro' poor harvests and even the heartlessness of some of their own people. Perhaps Dr. Underwood has reported how one an Armenian who lived right across from us met his death this fall. He with others of both races were cornering wheat and so raising the price of wheat and bread. The mob took him and murdered him andthen dragged his body about the streets as an example. It was certainly a terrible end for a life that had not been what it ought to have been.

We are more than enjoying our visit home with the friends here. It may be that we shall get East sometime in the Spring perhaps on a visit to Mrs Hooker who has been keeping us on the foreign field these past nine years . The time is passing rapidly and here we have the New Year upon us. Let us enclose our greeting to you for this season and also add our best wishes and prayers for Turkey and the Eastern part of it in particular. Speaking of the work in Russia. Do you know of any one of our Board who has been permitted to enter the Russian Empire to carry on evangelistic work? We were permitted to come thro' that land as we were coming home but it was not tried to get permission to visit it in order to see about the work there among the Armenians for whom our work there is altogether.

We will be pleased to hear from time to time any items of news you may have from the field. With best wishes for the work in hand I remain,

fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Saginaw, Mich. Dec. 27th, 1907.

Rev. Hooper W. Pell,
14 Beacon Street,
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr Pell:- Your kind favor of the 21st. just came to hand this week and I thank you for the news in it. Letters from Erzroom had not mentioned matter of the Pittis field. I have just received a card from Mr. Cole in which he makes no note of it either. I do hope that it will be successful in his search for the proper man for that field.

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Dr. Underwood writes that he has already sold that house of which we were speaking. It had been our home for the past six years and a very cozy one it proved to be. When we return we plan to try living above the school for we have a good number of rooms there and I think it can be done. In this way we can get nearer the boys who are there as some day and often it would seem that they need such an influence over them while in the home that will help them later on. I mean that it is an opportunity to help them in a way that we have not when they are merely in the school during the day. It is too bad that we have no hope for Erzroom in the matter of reinforcements. In 1904 and before that there were three families there where for the past eight years there has been but one. How can work be done to the best advantage when the force is so crippled. Pray Dr. Underwood is there now but his work may slip along a new line.

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We are more than enjoying our visit home with the friends here. It may be that we shall get that something in the Spirit, perhaps on a visit to Mrs Hooker who has been keeping us on the foreign field for the past nine years. The time is passing rapidly and here we have the New Year upon us. Let us enclose our greeting to you for this season and also add our best wishes and prayers for Turkey and the Mission part of it in particular. Speaking of the work in Russia. Do you know of any one of our Board who has been permitted to enter the Russian Empire to carry on evangelistic work? We were permitted to come thro' land as we were coming home but it was not tried to get permission to visit it in order to see about the work there among the Armenians for whom our work there is altogether.

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Fraternally Yours

Laguiday-Inc. Dec. 27 1907.

rec'd JAN 22 1908

1004 Holland Ave. Saginaw, Mich. Jan. 20th. 1908.

Rev. Enoch H. Bell.

14 Beacon Street Boston Mass.

Dear Mr. Bell:-

Your last letter gave us cause for thankfulness with the prospects of a colleague for the Erzroom field. It is certainly a large enough field to have the two missionary families beside the good doctor who is there now. We do pray that the right man shall be found and that right quickly. If the man was found to go out this Summer it might be arranged to go out when we do in July. There is also the matter of a lady teacher to aid Miss Bushnell in the school and for whom we understand the Board of the Interior is looking. How far are we permitted to go, in urging men into the work if we found one that way inclined? What is the age limit? Would the question of children be a hinderance to ones going? It has been a maater of regret that so many of those who had joined the volunteer movement have not entered the work. So few from our own college in Michigan or the Seminary during my time.

But nowhere have I seen the needs of the Board and its fields put forth in black and white as a special call. Is there not a corner in some of the periodicals of the Board where such might be seen. Prior to going out to Turkey no call came to my eye from printed page. Here as regards Erzroom, Bitlis and many other stations the Prudential Committe has decided to commission other men. Let it be known thro' the press of the Board and it may reach the eye of some whom otherwise might not be reached.

Greetings to Dr. Barton and to yourself.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

JAN 22 1908

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Greetings to Dr. Barton and to yourself.

Fraternally yours

Jan. 28-1908.

Rec'd FEB 29 1908

Flint Mich Feb 24th 1908

Dear Dr Barton:-

Your favor of the 12th inst came to hand just as I was leaving home for a visit to the churches of this Association, and perhaps as you have found out ere this that little time is accorded one for correspondence at such a time.

We have gone over the ground pretty thoroughly as to the question in your letter, "whether it would be better for us and the work of the Erzroom field, that we visit the Harpoot station for two years"

One of the great hinderances to the work in that field has been the change of the missionary force at Erzroom. To us it would be a pleasure and paivilege to visit the larger center with its many activities, but we feel that

for the work and for us also if we are to remain in Erzroom it is better that we return direct to Erzroom. There are many things in the management of affairs that are waiting our return and it would be very difficult for another to take in hand. Dr Underwood is waiting for me to see to these things. In fact he writes us this week that he will have to return to America almost as soon as we get back.

It is true we saw but little of the other stations or the policy at work there and very little have they seen of the Erzroom field. Led to understand that the policy before our time in Erzroom was not altogether in harmony with that

of the Mission we were left to work along the line that appeared best to us. The station in general was a unit in this. Tho one with the exception of Mr Cole has been near us for the past seven years to look over the ground, unless it be Dr Barnum who passed thro' the city two years ago.

The Erzroom circle seem to be unanimous in their opinion and so we express the desire to return direct to Erzroom.

We shall be glad to hear from you soon upon this question and hope that our desire may be granted by the Prudential Committee so that we can begin to make preparations for our return.

Perhaps you have heard that since our last letter to you we have had an addition to our family circle. John Paul is his name and he is almost six weeks old. Both mother and son are doing well.

Altho' we are having much storm & snow this month it has not hindered me at all in visiting the churches but it has affected the number of those who came to our meetings.

Greetings from Mrs Stapleton and myself.

Fraternally Yours
Robt. S. Stapleton

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Greetings from Mrs Stapleton and myself.

Fraternally Yours
Robt. S. Stapleton

R. S. Stapleton a

Flint Mich - Feb. 24 - 1908

Rec'd MAR 10 1903

111½

1004 Holland Ave
Saginaw Mich
March 6th 1908.

Dear Dr Barton:-

This past week has been spent at home in preparation of a trip into Wisconsin the itinerary of which is enclosed. Our hopes had been that we might have heard from you this week. While on this trip our mind will be busy with the preparation for returning. Any letter sent to the home address here will be forwarded to me immediately. The itinerary has been made out by Dr Hitchcock. The latter part of April will be spent in Illinois and Michigan again. We shall be ready shortly after the beginning of July to sail.

Since your letter came to hand we have heard from two or three sources both at home

and on the field that it had been decided that we were going to Harpoot. These letters were from friends in and of the Mission. It seemed strange to us as your letter was the first intimation of such a move. In your letter, you said it remained with us in a large measure. Last week our reply expressed our desire to return direct to our work in the Erzroom field. The friends there both native and American are looking for our return. We cannot hide the fact that we (also) have been judged behind our back and also unjustly judged altho' perhaps not intentionally. Those on the field in Erzroom seem to feel that our place is there and that direct from here. Each station has its own peculiar questions

to face and Erzroom is not at all unique in this. We have visited Van & Bitlis and seen the problems there. From those in Harpoot we have heard of situations that are unknown in the other centers. Some of these have to be out lived. Could we have our annual meetings as we ought, the policy of the mission might become more uniform than it is now, for it seems to us that each station has its own policy which may be necessary from the fact that each station has different cases that present themselves. We are anxious to get back to our work and shall feel while preparing for our return as tho' we had begun it in earnest. Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain

Fraternally Yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

R. S. Stapleton

Saginaw-Mich- Mar. 6-1908

1903

Itinerary of Rev. Robta S/ Stapleton.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

arch 9	Monday	Milton Wisconsin		Rev.
" 10				
" 11	Wednesday	Edgerton	"	Rev. Leonard Parr.
" 12	Thursday	Whitewater	"	Rev. W.L.Lewis.
" 13	Friday	Stoughton	"	Rev. Jas. Davidson.
" 15	Sunday	Elkhorn	"	Rev. A.O.Stevens.
" 16	Monday	Black Earth	"	Rev. F.A.Slyfield.
" 17	Tuesday	Mazomanie	"	Rev. Wm. Crawford.
" 18	Wednesday	Spring Green	"	Rev. H.R.Hogan.
" 19	Thursday	Roscobel	"	Rev. HENry Kent.
" 20	Friday	Lancaster	"	Rev. W.H.Hannaford.
" 22	Sunday	Platteville	"	Rev. W.A.Leary.
" 23	Monday			
" 24	Tuesday	Sun prarie	"	Rev. C.W.Stark.
" 25	Wednesday	Windsor	"	Rev. W.J.Warner.
" 26	Thursday	Baraboo	"	Rev. L.A. GODDard
" 27	Friday	Elroy	"	Rev. S.W.Pollard.
" 29	Sunday	Sparta	"	Rev. F.W.Pugh.
" 30	Monday	Viroqua	"	Rev. J.E.Sarles.
" 3L	Tuesday	West Salem	"	Rev. A.F.Fehlandt.
ril 1	Wednesday	La Crosse	"	Rev. Henry Faville.
" 2	Thursday	Tomah	"	Rev. J.G.Smith.
" 3	Friday	New Lisbon	"	Rev. T.W.Cole.
" 5	Sunday	Grahd Rapids	"	Rev. Fred Staff.
" 6	Monday	Waupun	"	Rev. F.C.Weed.
" 7	Tuesday	Brandon	"	Rev. A.A.Morre.
" 8				
" 9	Thursday	Berlin	"	Rev. R.M.Higgins.
" 10	Friday			
" 12	Sunday	Fond du Lac	"	Rev L.H.Keller.
" 13	Monday			
" 14	Tuesday			
" 15	Wednesday			
" 16	Thursday	Appleton		Rev John Faville.

MAR 10 1903

R. S. Stapleton
Sagrada

Itinerary of Rev. Robts S\ Stapleton.

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March 9	Monday	Milton Wisconsin		Rev.
" 10				
" 11	Wednesday	Edgerton	"	Rev. Leonard Parr.
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" 29	Sunday	Sparta	"	Rev. F.W.Pugh.
" 30	Monday	Viroqua	"	Rev. J.M.Sarles.
" 31	Tuesday	West Salem	"	Rev. A.F.Penland.
April 1	Wednesday	La Crosse	"	Rev. Henry Ravlie.
" 2	Thursday	Tomah	"	Rev. J.G.Smith.
" 3	Friday	New Lisbon	"	Rev. T.W.Cole.
" 5	Sunday	Grand Rapids	"	Rev. Fred Start.
" 6	Monday	Waupun	"	Rev. F.C.Wood.
" 7	Tuesday	Brandon	"	Rev. A.A.Morre.
" 8				
" 9	Thursday	Ripon	"	Rev. R.W.Hewins

Transf. Mar. 9- to Apr. 16- 1908.

Rec'd APR 6 1908

Tomah Wis. April 3rd 1908

Rev. Enoch Bell
14 Beacon St.
Boston Mass.

Dear Mr Bell:-

Your favor announcing our appointment to Erzroom was forwarded to me here in Madison. Many thanks for the greetings and welcome to John Paul which we will extend to him. The latest report from him is that he is doing very well in his three duties - eating, sleeping and growing. He has not said just when he would be ready to leave for Turkey but doubtless it will be at the same time with his parents. We were planning to go about the 10th of July and would like to go via London by the Atlantic Transport S. S. Co. Shall we see to this matter or write Dr Creegan of New York? Our hearts have been gladdened by the news that a Miss Atkins of Elk River Minnesotta has been appointed or is to be appointed for the Erzroom station. It may be that as she is teaching she will be not be ready to go quite so early especially

if her school keeps till the latter part of June. This may delay us a little in starting as it would be better to go along with us than for us to wait in Erzroom for her. Already we have written to her about the matter and hope to hear from her soon.

My time in Wisconsin is not yet finished. The last date is the 17th of this month at Madison and then we go into Chicago for a week or so. But a reply to this sent to Saginaw will be immediately sent on to me. Oh, that we had another family to go on with us to Erzroom.

Fraternally Yours
Robt. S. Stapleton

R. S. Stapleton

Tomah-Wis- Apr. 3-1908.

JUN 12 1908

18

113

Metamora, Mich., June 9, 1908.

R. F. D. #1.

Rev. Enoch F. Bell,

Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Bell:-

Your favor of May 27th was received and I wish to acknowledge the favor with the information given. It may be that my correspondence with Mr. Wiggin could have gone through your office, but it would seem as though items of information were not known to the two.

Mr. Palmer informs me that we are booked to leave New York August 1st. Mr. and Mrs. Maynard are going with us as well as Miss Atkins and Miss Ward, of Marsovan. We are planing if possible to spend a day in Boston just before leaving the country and hope we shall see you at that time. About this will write later. We are now busy with the preparation of getting ready.

Greetings.

Fraternally yours,

Robt. S. Stapleton

Metamora - Mich - June 9 - 1908.

Rec'd JUN 12 1908

Metamora, Mich., June 9, 1908.

R. F. D. #1.

Rev. James L. Barton,

Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Mr. Wiggin wrote me asking to let him secure our berths on the steamer and so he has done it. We are to leave New York August 1st. The Maynards and Miss Atkins are going with us.

It will be a pleasure for us to spend a day with you in Boston and we will plan to do so. Miss Foote is working as field secretary for the W. B. M. I. and will not return this year. There was some talk of having her act as substitute for teachers on furloughs.

Greetings from Mrs. Stapleton and myself.

Fraternally yours,

Robt. S. Stapleton

Pardon the seeming haste in the above. While dictating it to a friend we were pressed for time. Just now we are busy preparing for our return and we are trying to gather the loose ends together. Do you know Mr Corey's address in London. It is in Bevington Square but the number has escaped me. (23) It would more than delight us to find a man and family to go back to Erzroom. But as yet no one has appeared on our horizon to fill that place. Has Dr Underwood wrote you about the famine conditions around Erzroom this year. It seems to be the worst of any season since the "event" and seriously affects both us and our work.

R. S. S.

Robert S. Stapleton

Metamora - Mich - June 9 - 1908

JUN 25 1908 P. F. D. #1. Metamora Mich
June 23rd 1908.

Dear Dr Barton:-

Your favor of the 18th inst. came to hand and greeted us on our return from a visit to our Alma Mater. Many thanks for Mr Corey's address. We are in correspondence with the others who are the members of your party. Glad are we to hear what you write about Miss Atkins. We are looking forward to the pleasure of meeting her with great interest. Miss Ward of Marsovan is also to be of our company. Her brother Dr Ward we met in London a year ago. (Alluding to an item in your former letter) We have met a man who is seriously considering the foreign field and we spoke of him of Erzroum. He gave me

to speak of him to you when writing. Rev. Theodore C. Williams of 1901 class Chicago Seminary, now thirty four years old, unmarried, now pastor of the Imlay City (Mich.) Congregational Church. If Dr. Patton is the one to have this information please to give him the facts and if in order have application papers. I did not hear him preach but Mr Stapleton did last Sunday. If he comes it will be during this year. His sister who has kept house for him thus far plans to be married soon.

The enclosed letter you sent came to hand is duly signed and taken care of with the hopes that there will be no occasion to use it. But many thanks for the same for it is appreciated.

I note that you do not expect to be in Boston toward the end of July. Our plans would not take us to that city unless there be some need of it. Who would be there during your absence? If it is necessary we might come up by boat from New York and then back after the day's visit.

We will doubtless remain here till July 26th unless some unforseen incident takes place.

It is very pleasant to have the prayers and good wishes of so many friends going with us as we start on our journey eastward. These are greatly appreciated and go far toward smoothing the farewells that are sad in some measure as they are to be the last in many instances as our friends are

in several homes nearing the
longer journey to the home
above. Both Mr Stapleton
and myself are looking forward
to our return to the work with
deepened interest.
We both join in greetings to
you.

Fraternally Yours
Robt. S. Stapleton

Mr Patton

Robert S. Stapleton

Mohawk Ind. June 23-1908

OCT 15 1908

11/3

Erzroom Turkey Sept. 23rd. 1908.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

While I was overhawling my machine to do some letter writting your favor of Aug. 31st. came to hand. The enclosures-copies of letters sent to the Mission Secretary-were also read with interest. Many thanks for your words of welcome back to the work. We deeply regret that we did not see you before coming here. I suspose we passed each other on the mighty deep but not near enough for converse. We had a pleasant voyage and have already forgotten the few days when Neptune demand respect from those wandering over his domain. It was a merry company that was found on the Minneapolis and also again on the Danube from Marseilles to Trebizond. And by the way, the last mention boat is not to be recommended for passengers. An old tub, steady enough, but the accommodations are not good at all.

There is indeed a great change since we left last year and we see it here as much as else where. The freedom of the people is seen on all sides. This was noticeable in our visit to the Governor this morning who by the way was the friend of our circle when he was in Van. Having met him twice before we were at once friends. The freedom with which any body may see the officals, is very marked . The hopes of the people are high and yet those who have suffered in the past at the hands of those in authority are well restrained so that they seek not revenge.

It may be there will be more to tell after my trip which begins to-morrow. Accompmaying the Maynards on to Bitlis the part of our field in that direction will be visited by me and if possible I shall swing round over into the Passen valley and see the work and workers there. One thing to be noticed on every hand is the poverty and the high price of foods and other commodities of the markets. In places the harvests have been good this year but the debts o of former years have to be met and this is no small item with

many of them. During this year Dr. Underwood has been able thro' the kindness of some friends to reach a part of the poverty but a small part indeed. It is feared that a similar appeal will be needed this year. We have had appeals from our teachers and workers for aid because of the increased expense in living.

Our arrival here was on the 14th. inst. since which we have been indeed busy. The schools started the next day. We have a new helper from Aintab in our High School and he is an earnest Christian so we hope for rich results from his stay among us. There is no small change in our workers some moving from place to place and this change is taking place just now. Many perplexing questions arise from these changes and it is hard to know at time what is best to do. With a sigh of relief Dr. Underwood hands over to me the burden of cares. The lady we brought on from London to help Dr. U. is fitting in nicely and as nurse she will be a great help to him. We prayer that the way may open for Dr. U. to return to his work after his furlough. He has worked up a great practice and ought to be here to reap the results. Miss Atkins is going to be a great addition to our circle and is entering into its life with real zest.

I am not certain that we have acknowledged our gratitude for the increase in allowance. It is appreciated by us and if we do a little more begging this year let it not be thought that we are ungrateful. Bread is twice as dear as when we left a year ago and every thing has risen in price because of that. We shall make a trial of it under these conditions and then report on the result But this must be drawn to a close for to-day. With greetings from us all to you and Mrs Barton.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Congrons Turkey Sept. 23-1908.

NOV 16 1908

T2

Erzroom Turkey October 24th. 1908.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Since my last letter to you I have had the privilege of visiting Bitlis and being present at the fortieth anniversary of their the Misses Ely coming into that field. The two schools having learned of the day desired to have some appropriate exercises for the evening which they did . But so quiet had the fact been kept that the pastor did not know of the accassion until invited that evening to attend the exercises. Right royal was the welcome givan to the Maynards as they came to their new home and work. Miss Mary Ely met us unexpectedly when we entered the Bitlis field some three days from Bitlis, for she had telegraphed that she would not be able to come as she had planned because of sickness. But the first place we made on the Bitlis side of the line dividing our fields, there Miss Mary Ely met us. It was my thought that I would be able to return to my own work a day or two sooner than had been planned by leaving the friends one day this side of Bitlis. But Miss Mary Ely thought that it would be a great diaappointment to her sister if I did not go to the city with them. And I feel that my visit was indeed a help to them, aside from the repairing I was able to give to the various organs in the station. Few will ever know what it has meant to be alone thro' this past year in Bitlis. Added to the conditions there while these two sisters were alone, was the idea among some of giving over that entire field to another society. Loth were the ladies to speak of it now did they to the new-comers.

Bitlis has a good field and a work as well established as in the other parts of our Mission known to me. Many of the Armenians as a result of the new state of affairs are returning from foreign lands where they had fled from the former oppression. These are coming back especially to the Bitlis and Moush reigons. Is it lack of workers that gave birth to the thought in the minds of some that it might be possible to give over that field. Then Mr Maynard says he has a friend in the seminary who in 1910 will be ready to come out there and would like to come and join his friends in that field.

Upon my return to our own field I took especial care to go thro' the villages where the Bitlis friends have work and was glad tofind the work in the condition it was. It is a large field and even in villages where there has been no work I heard of them speaking of their Badvilie Mr. Cole.

Back in our own field I was glad to see the workers there and to plan with them for the year, yes, years to come. It was the Khanous part of our field. This past year has been a very hard one with them all because of the price of food stuffs. It might almost be mentioned in the singular for bread is the principal food and in many cases the only One. The people have been unable to give their portion and the amount that we did give to our workers was barely enough for the bread necessary or the wheat for bread. Many had to resort to barley and even millet as the grain from which to make bread.

There are to be one or two changes in that field. Pert is to occupied by a teacher and preacher who for the past five years has been at Heramik in the same locality. It is hoped that a girl teacher may be added to the force for Pert is a city that is growing and in which are to be found several families from Bitlis. For that entire field there is going to Heramik an ordained evangelist. This has been made possible by the promise wholly unsought for by us of a gift (annual) from Mrs Bliss of the West somewhere. She gave somewhat to the Girls' school when it was being built and now expresses the desire to have a travelling evangelist in this field. So we are placing one whom we ordained just before leaving for America last year. For this past year or more he has been at Erzingan, the pastor of which church we sent to Harpoot theological class two years ago. He has returned to his church as he promised he would altho' the church at which he was preaching in Harpoot asked him to remain longer and he has taken up his work again with us. A new worker has entered our field and has gone to Konatsor. He was trained in the Mardin school but his home is just to the North of here and he seemed pressed by the Holy Spirit into the work and we prayed that the field will receive a blessing from his coming. He has newly remarried and has for a wife one of the community here whose sister has gone out with them as teacher there.

We are to have a visit from Mr Lawson Chambers this coming week. I wish that the young men of our community were more alive to the work he is representing but there is where they lack.

Our new teacher who is from Aintab came with the desire to help and eagerly explained what might be done in that line. He has not been here three months and is now ready to give that up and forge ahead with other work by himself. We pray that Mr. Chamber's visit may awaken in some the desire to do something more than they are doing. The pastor is almost disheartened with his work. The church committee practically do nothing. Were it not for the outside help their Sunday school would go to pieces. The teacher we had here last year during my absence tho' the son of a former worker was a detriment to the school and the work. Glad we are that he remained only one year for the evil he has done will take some time to eradicate. The new regiem is taking up the attention of a large number of the young men and the weekly meetings on Sunday in the old church or their school attracts a large number. But as for the meetings being beneficial they like the Christian character that they need and that the people need. Those who have come into the land out of hiding now that freedom has been proclaimed come with the idea that education is going to do every thing and so lecture on Armenian literature and kindred subjects. Our pastor was invited to speak at one meeting and he sounded the right note of a Christian education. We are all well and unite in greetings to your circle. Let this bring you Thanksgiving greetings. We feel we have need to be thankful for the care of our heavenly Father who has given us the pleasure of seeing the loved ones in America and now has brought back in safety to this our work.

Fraternally Yours
Robt. A. Stapleton

Erzroom - Turkey - Oct. 24 - 1908.

JAN 4 1909

12

Erzroom Turkey December 12th. 1908.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

A week ago we received Mr. Bell's letter and at the same time the account of the meetings in Brooklyn. You did have fine meetings there and we rejoice with others over the reports of the work done for the Master's kingdom. May it come speedily in this land.

First of all of ourselves as a circle. It may be you have heard of the arrival of Master Franklin Judson Underwood this week. I do not know but that he thinks it is a hard world into which he has come for the poor fellow had malaria the first week and this the Doctor proved by an examination of his blood. But as the days go by he seems to be gaining. Another item of news from the same family is that Arthur is down with scarlet fever. It would seem as tho' Miss Ash the nurse was sent here for this special time. It is certain never or seldom did a person come more opportune than did she . It is she who is sharing the quarantine with Arthur and this will in some measure spoil our Christmas which is for the children. But we will do our best to make it a bright and pleasant time for him shut in as he will be. He is holding his own and the fever is down the temperature being normal. As for the rest of the circle we are all well at this writing.

Since my last letter we have had a visit from Mr. Lawson Chambers who had a good full church to greet him. One would have thought that it spoke well for the work among the young men. The crowd continued to come Sunday evenings but it was to hear "Something for our nation" and the pastor was advised to "cut out the religious" out of the meetings. This came from some in our own community and even the head of the community. They did succeed in their desire and last Sunday the bars were let down and one speaker did more harm in his harangue for the Armenian nation. At any rate it has been decided to let this style of meeting go and return to the Y. M.C.A. style of meeting at any rate for Sunday evening.

It occurred to us that we might do a little toward bringing the two prominent races of this section a little nearer one another and so we opened our big school room for addresses by both Turks and Armenians. This courtesy was greatly appreciated and the two times that we have had these meetings the room has been crowded to overflowing. The young Turks are to the front in their desire to have harmony and if the Armenian element can restrain some of its more ardent members all will go well. I think that , our school room is the best in the city for such a gathering for it is well lighted and ventilated and so arranged that the entire company, and this time it was over eight hundred, are near the speaker. In general I think it may be said that these two elements are in pretty fair harmony here and have been the ten years that I have been here. We will continue these meetings and try and direct the addresses so that something practical will be given from the rostrum. //

Now as to our own immediate work. For some weeks past we have had a special meeting of the workers every Friday evening in the which we have been preparing for a series of special evangelistic meetings to begin about the first of the year. For this also we are to have special music and wehave a choir learning some suitable hymns. The pastor and teachers are in full harmony about this and we are praying for a rich blessing on the work. The outsiders come very freely to our meetings and so we hope to bring a large number to a saving knowledge of their Savior. The acting Bishop of the old church is too good a man for this place and so the people do not care for him and wish his removal so he goes. It is rare to see a man in such a position who neither smokes nor drinks and his other traits of character are equal to these so that he has been called a protestant by those of his own church.

I am enclosing a copy of extracts of letter that have come to us from our workers in the outstations. You will see from them the condition of a large number of the villages around here. We have been able to send them a hundred dollars and to-day we are sending another hundred which exhausts our supply of relief cash on hand. Most of the help has, so far, come from England and Mr. Peet is making a strong appeal for aid, not only for this section but for many sections of this land for there is a great deal of want and suffering in other parts also. This morning's post brought me seven different letters from the section of Khanous touching the poverty of the people. We have sent a new pastor, an ordained man, into that field, and he says in his letter an extract of which is enclosed that his work will be to bury the dead merely if there is no relief.

Just now a vote is going the round of the Mission asking that if possible a deputation of the Board visit not only Turkey but visit the interrior stations. Often we hear of such an one touching at Smyrna and Constantinople two very interesting places, but they are only a part of this great land that is moving just now in a way to surprise the world. The latch string is out here for them but come not in the winter time but rather in the Autumn that is for this part of the land.

It looks doubtful if Dr. Underwood will come back to us. We hope another doctor may be found that will take up the work at once and thus keep up the interest which has grown up in that work with its hospital small tho' it be and the nurse already on the ground. No I do not think that there is any fear of complications with this worker such as some of our friends are having with the German cousin who have come into our midst. No not at Erzroom as yeat but Van, Bitlis and Harpoot.

All of our circle unite in greetings to you and Mrs Barton.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

To

Rev. James L. Barton D. D.
#14 Beacon Street
Boston Mass. U. S. A.

Erzroom Turkey. Dec. 12-1908.

J. T. B.

JAN 15 1909

Erzroom Turkey December 23rd. 1908.

Dear Dr. Barton :-

Our last post brought us the estimates from you. They were addressed to Dr. Underwood who turned them over to me. We are glad to get them so early and we have read with interest what you have written about the future plans ~~of~~ for this land.

Let me call attention to what you write about the percentages on the second page of your letter to Mr. Andrus a copy of which you were kind enough to send us ~~a copy~~. It was dated Boston November 25th. and had to do with the estimates . You say" In the vote of the Annual Meeting of the Mission the percentage of distribution was as follows : Bitlis 15%, Erzroom 17% &c."

This is not quite the case for it was understood that if no advance was given then the old per cent should remain or that no station should suffer a diminution of the regular appropriations to which it was accustomed to. This percent would cut us down at least fifty liras for the year and that would greatly cripple our work. In the Minutes of the Harpoot Meeting this past Summer you will see on the eleveneth page that the amount for Erzroom was to be 296.00Lt. That is the regular amount and the per cent is less than formerly which was 21% because some other stations had increased their estimates. I have written Mr Peet and put the matter before him and shall at once notify Mr. Andrus. It may be the Mission Clerk and the treasurer will see and make the correction but we felt that now is the time to point it out. Bitlis is also affected but not so much as we are.

A week or ten days ago a letter left here telling about the distress around us. The winter began in good earnest earlier than usual. To day it is rumored that the Russian consul has received money and is giving it out liberally. How true that is it is difficult to say just at this moment. We were invited to a lunch there last Saturday in honor of the Tsar's name-day and there was quite a good deal of toasting going on all round. But one felt as if it was not altogether genuine for that country has not been thought as friendly to this new movement here. The New Turk Committee were there and presented their respects to the consul and his monarch. Perhaps this is one way of gaining favor.

We have just closed a three days' jubilation over the opening of parliment in Cple. The schools paraded the streets and sang all manner of songs. There was a mingling of the races as far as the scholars were concerned and we hope this brotherhood may grow. We shall do our best to foster it.

Yesterday we gained quite a point with the church here which was not to postpone some special religious meetings so as to favor the giving of a play but rather let the play wait for a month or so that we might have an open field for the evangelistic meetings.

I have just received a letter from one of our pastors in which he writes" Our people at present think that religion is against them, that is, their nationality and patriotism; therefore they are hating religion. The Gregorians have a theater every Sunday but most of the people think it childish". This shows the state in many places

But I must stop here as the post is called for

Fraternally Yours Robt. S. Stapleton

Erzroom - Turkey - Dec. 23-1908

MAY 20 1909

Erzroom Turkey April 28th. 1909.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

There is but time for a line to-day and that to let you know that we are all well and that at this writing our city is quiet. Last week we had quite a demonstration by the soldiers, or perhaps it ought to be said by a certain class of them, who paraded the streets with drawn sword. Of course that meant that at once there was going to be murder. But it was a quiet demonstration and only resulted in frightening the market people who shut up their shops for some four days. People at once flocked to to our buildings but we discouraged them saying that we did not think there was danger for the Armenians. The Turks were the ones to be the most frightened and so they were and quite a number of the officers took shelter at the French consulate who had his flag flying all the time. We kept our school opened altho' the other schools of the city were closed.

Now comes the news of the accession of a new Sultan, but we have no word as to how it came about. The usual royal salute was given at eight o'clock this morning but as yet there has been no demonstration round our way. The market is closed and our school with the rest has a vacation for the day. There is still some uncertainity in the market and little business is being done with the outside that is the interior villages. Money is rather scarce so that we are paying almost one per cent to have our drafts cashed.

We must acknowledge the receipt of your book which came to hand several posts ago. I have not been able to read it thro' but what we have read we have enjoyed it and found it instructive on many points that the world is now wishing to know about this land, which is the birth place of a new nation. Those on the outside do not know what that means as we do who have lived under the old and now see the dawn of the new. It is indeed a delicate and difficult question to say just how much our mission work of the past has done toward bringing this new order of things about. Certainly not in any direct way for those at the head of this movement were men few of whom if any had come under the direct unflunce of our work. But then again, were the country not prepared for this new order of things and in such a way as to make it possible with so little strife to introduce it we might be having the condition of affairs similar to those in Perisa at this time. And here is where our influence has been felt. The Armenian agitators we might say are resultants of the education which our Missions brought here and stimulated in the old communities. These agitators had no direct influence in the initiative of this movment but it is to their credit that that they have restrained their own ideals for the good of the entire land.

Of the silent influences of our missions it is hard to say. The colleges, hospitals and industrial works are spoken of by officals whom we have met here who have come from other places. We have seen the products of the industrial plants in their houses which added to their comfort. And it is certain that these must have spoken with no small voice of the purpose of our coming here.

Those supporting these new ideas are of the educated classes and whence came the impetus of this education if not from the efforts put forth by our Missions.

But what concerns us most of all is how can we influence the future of this land for our work is but begun. Many of the youngm men are saying that Christianity is a thing of the past. The Sansarian school of this place has had no small part in spreading such doctrines. Their first directors, who have held power up to now, were educated in Germany and came from that land filled with atheism and such doctrines. At least this can be said of two of them while the third a Harpootli cannot be considered strong enough to be called positive in Christian truths.

Among our own young men there has grown almost similar ideas. One of the church committee says and acts his ideas that religion may wait till they more securely secure this new liberty which is to be gained and understood by reading the papers and histories of Europe and its philosphies.

Of course many of our educational institutions at home if they are building up any christian character at all, it must be confessed are putting out some rather weak samples. But usually there are influnces for good and righteousness there at work. Here in this land the educational needs to be more and more of a christian nature. To this end we are at work. We believe that right will prevail here but it means that the oportunities now opening must be seized. To this end as you know we need a man here to help do h the work properly which at one time had the attention of three men. We are looking and praying for that new man so long promised us. Nor can a doctor takes his place. We are going ask for Dr. Underwood's return or another man in his place. We can hardly hope that Doctor Underwood will return but we shall give him an invitation. Here is a small hospital which he has prepared for the work, a nurse on the field studying the language. Surely this plant and effort is not going to be put aside. I know Dr. Underwood will work for a new man and will have a constant interest in this field.

But do not leave us without that new man for the evangelical and educational work here. I must close for this time as it is nearly post time. Greetings from our circle to you and Mrs Barton.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

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Sincerely yours

Geo. A. Wheeler

Gaymen - Turkey, Apr. 28-1909.

JUN 18 1909

Erzroom Turkey May 26th, 1909.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Your kind favor of April 29th, came to hand this last Sabbath. We are thankful to know that the friends at home are responding to the great need in the Adana reigon. It is an expression of deep interest in the work which is theirs and in those whom they have sent out to do that work. There has been nothing in Erzroom that seem to call for a cable which at times are misleading. Had there been any danger to the city and to our circle we would have immediately sent you word by cable or thro' Mr. Peet. Not a death is to be reported in our city or province for this month. We did not get the news of the doings at Adana till we thought it too late to wire that we were all safe for we had written both Mr. Peet and yourself. There was not a day when our days did not ride out thro' the city unattended.

Rumor had it that orders had come here for similar work to that which visited Adana but that the message was suppressed. The head of the post and telegraph is one of the leaders of the Young Turks and it is said it was he would aided in this suppression. He took refuge in the French consulate at the time and was there for a week or more. We did not curtail our going here and there at all where our duty called us. Were not the missionaries in Adana killed by accident rather than by plot to touch the Missionaries. It would seem so by all accounts.

Our annual meeting has again been given up altho' we felt it impossible to leave the work for so long a time this year much as we would have enjoyed the trip to Mardin. Around us here things are quiet just now. Some of the fractious soldiers are being removed and others are coming in from head quarters at Erzingan. I trust that these happenings here will not hinder new workers for this awakening land. We keep looking for a letter telling of an associate appointed for us here. We need one, more than ever now.

We shall be interested to hear from you after you have seen Dr. Underwood for as it is doubtful if he will return just now, we are awaiting a doctor to take ~~his~~ place. Miss Ash the nurse is studying Turkish and at the same time praying for a doctor to be sent soon, for a larger hospital, more equipment and another trained nurse from England she says. We join her in these petitions.

We have word that we are to have a visit from a Miss Butlin this Summer who is from the C. N. S. hospital in Mosul. She is an English lady as I understand it, a doctor or nurse and is to be accompanied ~~with~~ by a lady returning to England.

I wonder if my last letter told of the expected ordinations to take place here this next month. The pastor of our city church and then the pastor of the Erzingan church. The pastor here wishes to have a deacon ordained also for that work but it is not yet settle as to that point. The word is being faithfully preached by the pastor here. The noon congregations on the Sabbath tax the old church building to its utmost. The desire of the community is for a new edifice, and they keep looking to America for a great share of the funds needed. We have said that there is no hope just now of the Board taking upon themselves a part of this burden. They have begun to think that we are the obstacles to them getting what they wish. Dr. Underwood is commissioned by them to find a friend who will help them in that line.

Trade is rather bad just now because of the poverty of the people thro' this section that has been felt all this winter. We have had some nice rains which give us hopes for a good harvest. There was not as much grain sown as there would have been had the villagers had it. Many had to go without because we did not have enough to go round and they were unable to get it from others. Greetings from us all to you and Mr. Bell from whom we also had a letter by the last post and we will answer it soon.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Erzroom - Turkey - May 26-1909.

Rec'd JUL 31 1909

122

Acknd 31

13

Erzroom July 10th 1909

Dear Dr Barton:-

Just a line to accompany the tabular view of our station for 1908 and the estimates for 1910. Perhaps the two should not come quite as near together and we will try a different plan this coming year. We promise the reports of the year's work for a week later.

There is a matter that has come in the post this morning from Mr Peet. I think Mr Wiggin + yourself have both known of the over drawn condition of Dr Underwood's account on our books. My letter to Mr Peet upon the subject doubtless reach Constantinople while he was away. At any rate neither an answer to that letter or the letter, upon the same subject, sent to Mr Wiggin about the same date has come. In my June semi annual a/cs to Mr Peet the item (51.12 £t) was charged with the request that it be transmitted to Boston. But he returns the charge because it lacks explanation + authority. Dr Underwood has letter from me today with the request that he confer with you and Mr Wiggin about

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the matter in hand that the item on our books may be straightened by a credit for the amount from Boston.

We are well here and moving along. Examinations followed by graduation and then ordination of our pastor here. The same week Misses Bushnell & Atkins and I made a visit to the Passin field and hope to get away in August for a visit to Kharpous. Both these districts have felt the famine conditions very much this winter and are not yet thro' it altho' the harvest are so near.

We have a new Governor General from Cple, who promises well. The visit of the head of this 4th Army Corps has done much good toward pacifying the city. Between one and two hundred soldiers & civilians are in prison awaiting trial by a special military court. The new commander of the forces in the city has made a good impression which means a good beginning. Just now we are out in camp. The city will doubtless see me once a week, but the time of this next week goes into reports.

Fraternally Yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

Erzroom - Turkey July 10 - 1909.

REC'D SEP 1 1909

Erzroom Aug 14/1909.

Dear Dr Barton:-

Just a line to day to give you the sad news of the death of our little boy John Paul. Two weeks ago to day he was the very picture of health but a very acute attack of intero-colitis which would not respond to treatment just wasted the baby away and he died of exhaustion this morning. Some indications in vomit and stools lead us to think he had swallow something that would not be dislodged and of which fact we did not know. He was beloved of all and was

so patient thro' all his sickness. Just past eighteen months of age, he had come to fill a large place in our lives. We are out at tents and so made a grave upon our camping ground and will merely mark his resting place by planting a tree this coming year. We miss the bright sunny face and can hardly sense our loss as yet but keep straining our ears to catch the sound of his foot steps.

Our hearts are sad altho' we know it is well with the boy. Greetings from our

circle.

Fraternally Yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

rec'd NOV 26 1909

Erz room Turkey November 3rd, 1909.

Dear Dr Barton:-

Your letter with its kind sympathy expressed therein came to hand some days ago for the which we would express our thanks. The last post brought your circular letter suggesting a conference on the entire work in Turkey. We will bring the letter before the station and then report more fully upon the question as seen from our field. We might say here that such a conference would be a good thing for this land so that we might get a broader view of the work and the future before it.

Since receiving your former letter we have been to Erzingan where we took part in the ordination services of the pastor there-Hagop Ismelian. He has been pastor there for some ten years except for the two years that he was in Harpoot attending the seminary. This gives us an ordained man in the three parts of our field and we hope to see the day soon when these men will have the entire district as their field so that they can visit the villages around them. We were very hospitably received there in Erzingan and this forms or rather differs from the attitude of the people in this community toward those of the same faith from other communities. Our pastor from here who accompanied us felt the difference very much and sighs for a like spirit to come to his own congregation.

But I believe that we have got the people here where they will agree to let their pastor give at least one day a week to the villages on the plain here. It may be observed that it is not because they have become more generous but that perhaps as a method of helping them in their finacial problem that is confronting them. Another one of their old members has passed away which means that some one has to assume a larger part of the burden of meeting expenses and they are not teaching them to do so. I urged them to change their method of meeting the bills by including all in the plan of giving. But that was not their way and so they did not accept of it. Perhaps they will come to that when they feel the stress of burden grow heavier.

We are endeavoring to get the Sunday school into different order and there seems for the time being a deeper spirit in the work and yet the workers are mostly from our schools and the people of the community have not as yet been brought into line. The change of place and time has been made with this in view. There is a gain in attendance and we will work along that line and then appeal to the community for more workers.. The Sunday attractions outside are not so great this Fall as last winter. The lecture platform is not run so much since the scare they had in April last. We hope if it does begin again another day may be selected for it.

There is more activity in educational matters among the Armenians than before. But so great are the demands of the central committee that it may prove the undoing of all their work. For instance they go into a village and demand that the village give more than it takes to run the school that they wish to start at that place and then demand so much in the way of building and apparatus that it becomes a burden to the village. One priest from a village, where we have had a girl's school for two years, said yesterday, that the committee had taken the work out of their hands had made its demands and the villagers just now felt that such must be met. At times they have taken the building used for the girls' school and left them without anything. For as yet we have not heard of any effort in the villages for the girls except in one place where we had started a school. The teacher they have put there and whose salary they pay is from the old church in their village but one ~~that~~ who was educated in our city school here. In the

larger centers they have schools for girls or are trying to start them. Here in the city they have brought some in from the out-side and among them is one who has been in America some eight years. She speaks English well and even did some tutoring among Americans when she was in Brooklyn. She came to see our school and our teachers. Her compamions remarked when she said that she was going to visit our schools why they are protestants. This shows the feeling that exists in the minds of some. We shall see if with her liberal and independent spirit if she can not begin some work along the Christian Endeavor lines among her scholars.

It would seem as tho' they had selected the places where we have started schools to begin their schools. We have not heard of any overtures being made to our communities to join their ranks altho' there has been some thought that such was the intention. We are studying the situation to see what their platform is. Of course most of our workis considered by some to be opposed to them as a nation in as much as we do not work with the old church.

The question will come up, "is there any point of union possible between us and the old church". Our ~~question~~ answer would be that as far as this field is concerned we do not see any. The bishop who has been here somewhat over a year seems to be an enlightened man but as yet has little power over his community. It will be a matter of education and contact with more of their people from the out-side ere they will be ready to understand what is the best for them. So far too many from the out-side have been any thing but a real help to them.

This past week a sad incident occurred here. The editor of the paper here was shot by one of his own race while he was returning from Trebizond. The people here made a national affair of it and the funeral was a large and demonstative one. Some say that the murderer had been doomed by the political society of which the editor was one of the leaders. The man got in the first shot and the editor met his death. He was not deputed for the work but suffered as leader. We are indeed sorry that such has occurred but glad that it was not between the races as it would have been very serious I fear. I attended the funeral and our pastor was asked to speak in the demonstration which he did. We were afterwards thanked for our presence. Otherwise our part of the country is quiet altho' distrust is rife among the people but I think without just cause. As I talk with them they seem to expect everything on the part of the Turk whereas when pressed with what they are doing to make things better under the new regiem they have nothing to answer expect for themselves without a thought for the country at large.

We are all well at this writing . Already the snow line is descending the mountain and approaching the city. We are trying to prepare for the winter in putting in supplies. Wood seems to be getting scarcer every year and it was with difficulty that we got what we have this year. The girls' school are short on fuel and had they to pay market prices for it now they would need more money than they have. It happens that I put in a supply for the hospital but this in the absence of a doctor will not be called for and I can thus help them out.

With greetings and complements of the season to you and Mrs Barton I remain

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

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Enclosure - Turkey - Nov. 3-1909.

Personal

Mrs. Ida S. Stapleton

Everson Jan 19. 1900

Very dear Miss Bush:

Your letter and enclosures reached us last Saturday but I didnt have time that day to answer as I wished. it is such a pleasure to hear from you. It was very kind in you and Mr. Brown to send on the Harport letters we enjoyed them all. How long you were away and for Xmas and New Year too. Your unselfish devotion must indeed bring you rich success in your efforts. We have just finished making a copy of Dr. Ushers journey letter and send it on to you all by this post. The Lord was indeed caring for his own or they had certainly perished. Mr Berglholz says he will never lift a finger to help any ladies on in the winter again and after hearing of their perils we would have to protest against it also. Mr. Galvo came back last Sat. and he gave us a very vivid account of it also. Dr. Ushers account is to be con-

turned - but after all the perils of the snow - they were stopped by Soldiers and taken back to the village a half hour behind them - One of the cavasses had his belt torn off and there was every prospect of a fight but Mr. Ofalvo agreed to go back and see the Kimakam and in a short time he received word from the Vali here to let them go on. Miss Wilson writes she wishes never to travel any more in Turkey. Mr. Ofalvo says they both behaved like men but he can't praise Miss Barrows' common sense and bravery enough. As she writes the excitement nerved her up so she was the only one able to do anything after that dreadful day in the snow - Xmas day -

We had very good meetings and a good attendance during the week of prayer and until Xmas Evening. We went once a day always and sometimes twice. The church committee suggested to

the Badville that he ask Mr. S to take one of the meetings but he didn't - ~~Both~~ we did not wish, to get him ~~the children~~ if he would like the children to sing their Xmas hymns on Xmas morning. He is friendly but seems to be very positive he will have none of our help in the church. The church has decided to pay him £6 a month and Mr. S. has already asked them to ~~come~~ that £15 the ~~Board~~ has been paying this year. The President has been angry again over a matter any proper tempered man would see must ~~be~~ settled that way - but he seems to be coming to himself all right.

We have called at every home in the community this New Year and everywhere received cordially, except by two. A number of these had not called here but we thought we would call on them all - and they did appear glad to see us. I went to all those places, with Mr. S. where the people had not been here and to all those

places where there was a greivance or a fancied one.— and in spite of all my fears which are many at times I do wait on Him and we all hope for and pray for a great awakening in this people. We have found a woman - the Dekeen Marian who was once in Harpoot school - to give two hours a day to Bible work and Miss Lord often goes with her the first time - We have been able to help a number of poor families and we all put in our tenth money - for December and Jan. Such hopelessly poor people I have never seen before. We are glad to hear of the baby sister's safe arrival - [illegible] I am so glad you are well and strong. I hope you take a good rest now and that Mr. B. speedily recovers from his cough.

With much love in which the ladies join, and

Ida S. Stapleton.

Erzroom, Turkey, March 20, 1903.

Mrs. R. S. Stapleton writes,

To the Y.P.S.C.E. of Broadway Tabernacle Church,
New York City.

Dear Friends:-

It is long since you have heard from Erzroom, but the two girls you have been helping are studying away and getting more useful every day. Aravni would have graduated this coming June, but more help was needed on the teaching force, so she gave up three of her studies and put the time into teaching; thus she has been able to help herself considerably. She will have the same work next year. I think I have told you that her father is among the poor villagers to whose homes the Kourds come down only too often, carrying off the animals as well as the beehives, so there has been nothing at all for Aravni from home.

Last year Zarouhi taught in a village and earned enough to pay for her clothes and books this year. She has still a year to study before graduating; but next year we need some help in the Orphanage, so we think Zarouhi may earn her board there and go as a day scholar. That would leave us free to use the money for two other girls,(if you are able to send it again) or, if you are willing, we would like to use it for a boy.

The boy, Menalaous, is a Greek, and has been attending school since last September. His father is dead and his grandfather, who has been caring for him, his mother and five other children, died very suddenly last week. The grandfather was a constant sttendant at the chapel services and we hope the truth has made him free, but as far as we know, he had made no profession. Menalaous is a bright, studious boy, and so promising that we would like to,prepare him for a teacher. Like all other children here, he not only knows his own language, modern Greek, but Turkish and Armenian as well. He has lessons in the two latter languages as well as in English.

This winter,we are glad to say, three of the orphan boys have express-

ed their intention of living the Christian life and with two others about a month ago joined the church. This is the first time since our coming that a communion service has been held during the year, aside from the annual one at Easter. We hold this a mark of progress in the church. One of these boys has already taught school a year in a village, and another is helping on the teaching force in the school here. The third is only beginning, but he is so earnest and willing that he gives much promise.

The new Building for the Girls' School was ready for occupancy a month ago - that is, the school moved in - but much remains to be done. We are able to furnish only six rooms and three others have temporary floors. The appropriation given was $8000., and fully $2000. more is needed to finish the building. Mr. Ojalvo, the American Vice-Consul, helped much in getting the work done, but there was no one who could correctly estimate the cost of materials - thus we over-ran our appropriations. Mr. Stapleton took great care to look after the work and the expenditure of the money. The increased amount of building caused by the damage done by the earthquake, made building materials more expensive than usual. We hope very much to get the needed money and be able to continue the work this summer, as it is a great pity to have the unfinished rooms and not be able to use them. The building is as plain as it could possibly be, but it needs more than the present finished rooms to accomodate 150 pupils, including the 15 boarders and the two American teachers. In spite of the very crowded quarters during a year, the school has been doing excellent work. The C.E.Society numbers 50 active members, and many more are present every Sunday. The Sunday schools in all departments keep up the usual attendance and much interest is taken in learning bible verses.

We had a nice Xmas fete for all the children. This was the first

time we have had a tree, and it was so pretty with the bright lights and shining ornaments that every child was delighted. A bag of candy and nuts with some little gifts extra, such as a picture book, handkerchief, apron, knife, ball, gun or belt, made each child happy. The English Consul (Mr.Lamb) helped us much in providing presents for the orphans, as he did also last year, but we are indebted much to other friends for their generous boxes.

The Boys' School has been very comfortable after its repairs, and Mr. Stapleton has given nearly the entire morning to teaching. This spring he must visit the outside stations and plans to go to Erzingan in May; to Pasin for the native Easter(April 19), and to Khanous later. If the weather is good I may go to Erzigan also. We can go by wagon about as cheaply as by horse, so I can take the little Natalie along. The people have often asked that I should go and see them, but it has seemed impossible until this spring. You may have heard that we lost our baby boy last November, that is, we have not lost him, but he has gone from us, and we miss his sweet presence sorely. There has been so much sickness this year, I do not wonder so much that many have died, but that so many have lived. I have cared for all the little foreign children in grave sicknesses and am thankful for their recovery, but I could not help our own. My medical work rather increases, as a good many families give me a call when needed and seem to have much confidence in my little pills (the Alkaloidal treatment). Several times I have been called to consult with the Turkish doctors, though they seldom consent to use my suggestions. Although receipts are small, yet I have been able to pay for orphanage medicines and give considerable aid to the poor. I see about forty patients a week on my office morning and other special times, most of whom are very poor, but some are able to pay from ten to twenty-five cents for advice and pay for their medicine. The usual price for calling at the

(over)

house is about eighty cents, but if one is called he may expect to examine all the family and some of their relations under the one fee.

Last summer we camped about five miles from town at a flour mill, where several trees along the water course made it pleasant. The spring water was so fresh and cool, the air always pure and breezy, almost too cold for living in a tent, but we all felt well repaid for going. The babies thrived while out there and Natalie has been well all winter. This summer we look forward to visiting Van, as Eastern Turkey Mission hopes to have a meeting, though they have not met for five years. Miss Lord will go home for a year's vacation. She is the oldest of our circle and worked ten years in Smyrna before coming here. Is there not one lady among the C.E. members who would like to come for at least three years, first to assist Miss Bushnell, and then Miss Lord on her return, as Miss Bushnell's vacation must come next. Ours will not come for at least five years more. We are happy, however, to be at work constantly upholding the cross of Christ. Pray without ceasing that a great harvest will come as a result of the constant witnessing.

With loving greetings to you all,

Most sincerely yours,

(Signed) Ida Salmond Stapleton.
(Mrs.R.S.)

Copy of letter from Mrs. R. S. Stapleton, Erzroom, Turkey (Mar. 1913) to the Broadway Tabernacle C.E. Society, New York City.

5 Mrs. Stapleton

Rec'd DEC 17 1903

127

Erzeroum, Turkey,
Nov 18, 1903.

Rev. James L. Barton D.D.
Boston, Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton:

I can say so little in regard to my medical work that I hesitate to make any statement whatever: However during the year of ten months - Sept - 1902 - until July 1903 my records show some 800 office patients seen and about 200 visits made - Of these perhaps half have paid something - from 10 cents to one dollar - The money thus received has been expended mostly in medicines - for the orphanages and schools as well as for a great many poor people who could not pay even for medicines. However my dispensary is very small - and for a great many things depend upon the druggists of the place.

I have two hours twice a week for seeing patients at our house - and many times that time is given up for several months at a time.

At present I am confining myself chiefly to obstetrics - taking only such severe cases as defy the native midwives - frequently these are so poor - they feels that they could die more easily than give the small fee asked.

My field is Erzeroum and the surrounding villages - and last Spring when we visited our out-stations my time was quite taken up by the sick ones; however I never hope to do much more than at present. not having any regular permission from Constantinople, I am loath to do any thing that would call my right to practice into question - as I feel sure the little I do do is a great factor in helping on the work in Jesus name.

There are some eight or ten Greek or Turkish military doctors in the city - & a military hospital for soldiers only. A hospital is being built by the city however so there is some progress even in Erzeroum. Occasionally I am called in consultation by two or three of these doctors but we invariably disagree as to treatment. except in obstetric cases which are handed over without a word.

I am afraid my report will not help you much in your pamphlet upon the medical work of the A. B. but however small it is - we can not be too thankful for the knowledge that enables us to help in so many little things that cause much suffering as well as in the few larger troubles or ills of man, or I should say human kind that come to me

Some two years ago I was called in consultation on the occasion of the Vali Pasha's or Governor's son's sickness - but the other doctors would not agree to

even trying the change in treatment I suggested although they called me the second time in consultation. A few weeks ago I was again called to attend the Governor's wife in confinement and given full charge and confidence. I was rather glad of the opportunity to show them that I really do know what I attempt to do - and the Vali expressed his sincere thanks (nothing else as yet) for my "admirable" care of his wife -

Death reaps a terrible harvest here from the carelessness and ignorance of the mid wives. Not the slightest regard to cleanliness is exercised at the lying in period - and from custom, if the child is allowed to be born when the mother is lying down - a bed of ashes or dry soil - without any cloth between it and the woman's body is provided to receive the discharges. Many times tetanus follows close on to parturition in both mother and child. In case of a delayed placenta the severed cord is securely fastened to an old shoe - lest it again return to the uterus.

I lose none of these occasions to instruct the midwives as to the why? such ignorance is criminal but too often they will not change - saying. "It is our custom". Puerperal fever also is a very common result of the careless unwashen midwives.

Respectfully submitted -

Very Sincerely Yours. Ida S. Stapleton M.D.

128
Rec'd NOV 3 1904
Ans'd NOV 4 1904

Erzerum
Oct 8 - 1904.

Dr. James L. Barton
Boston, Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton:

Allow me to make a plea on behalf of Erzerum Station to allow Dr. Underwood to stay here - Surely there is a big field for a medical man in Erzerum and vacinity -

I do feel as tho' I should not be counted. Possibly I might look after the health of the members of the station and the schools but that is not all - I must give more time to our children now - I have thought of sending Natalie to the school kindergarten but two or three days of it makes her so rough and naughty I dare not risk it so, must teach her myself - then too I do wish to learn Turkish - I feel so handicapped to have always to take an Armenian woman with me to see the Turkish women patients -

We do feel sorry for Bitlis but since Dr. felt impelled to move on account of the child - why not allow them to stay here and help us work up this station - While they did not say any thing about it, really Mrs. Underwood had become so nervous by hearing the constant tales of cruelty etc - in Bitlis region - she is still as nervous and easily worried - as I imagine I might be if I lived in Moush - or Sassoun -

There is a great plain before us - and all the Passen - Khnoos - and Erzingan field as you very well know - and a medical work with its center here would have a great influence for good.

May I beg you to present the matter to the Prudential Committe on behalf of Erzerum.

Most Sincerely Yours
Ida S. Stapleton.

REC'D NOV 3 1904
REC'D NOV 4 1904

Oct. 1904

Oct. 8th 1904

Dear Dr. Potter:

Allow me to make a plea in behalf of Oregon. Letter to follow Dr. Blackwood. Briefly stated there is a big field for thinking men in Oregon and possibly. Perhaps the Board should not be consulted. Perhaps but of the health of the members of the Board. Anyway the school that is not all right for our boys & our children and thought of sending Pauline to the school but for a time day of it makes so tough and unhealthy. I do not feel it must hard for myself. Then I do want to talk to Dr. Blackwood about to have the Pacific School. Please write me to the Pacific School.

I do feel sorry for Pacific but since Dr. Pratt infallible on account of the child - why not allow Mary Pratt and Hallie work of this School. Pacific but not for any thing about it, really Mrs. Pratt had been so nervous by leaving the last time of health - in Pacific region - she all her nervous and probably would be a sufferer if she of school in Monrovia - Dr. Pratt - is a great thinker but we - and all the

Mrs. R. S. Stapleton.

129

Erzerouni

Rec'd DEC 8 1906 Sept 2 - 1906.

Ans FEB 1 1907

Dr. James P. Barton

Boston, Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton:

As time goes on my medical work grows less as home duties claim so much more of my time but from time to time I have some patients who will not consult the regular physicians and every such an one is an opportunity to put in the entering

wedge of real christianit
For instance many Turkis
women will suffer everyth
from the native midwives
before calling other help a
even now when I am know
more or less here I have
very few calls. This spring
I had two Turkish and on
Persian confinement case
They were in extremis wh
I was called but I was able
to save the three mothers
one of the babes.

As yet the wedge has mad
the merest beginning. We sh
our love by going freely t
the poorest houses - and yet

to difficult for them to understand. One of these cases was in a well to do home and needed care that I only could give every day and I told the husband so very plainly not forgetting to say also that I did not care for money my hope was to cure her and that in itself would be reward enough. but they must send a carriage for me as it was too far to walk.

After the second visit however no carriage came until the fourth day. there I found such a condition of infection I cannot think of it except with horror.

however then I went twice
a day until there was an
improvement and eventual
the woman got well. Well
the only reason they gave
not coming for me was t
fear of the money I shou
ask from them.

As yet I know little Turki
and must always take so
one with me to translate. F
tunately my cook speaks
Turkish well and I can near
always take her with me. M
American women however can
speak Turkish.

Very few of the Turkish wom
can read but occasional
I've found opportunity to g

one of the Gospels.

I have not seen very much success as to the breaking down of prejudices. They are all so satisfied that they are Christians and have been much longer than we have, it is very difficult to make anyone see the need of a personal Savior. This is among the well-to-do Armenians. With the poor we can tell the story of Jesus love and they receive it more joyously - but it is long ere they receive it to the extent of very much change in their lives. We see the most progress in the

boarders in school and the children of the orphanages.

Nov 7.

I am quite ashamed to send this report after such a delay but at the time your letter came our second child was very very ill with typhoid after a long time she recovered but was still very dependent on her mother when Mr. Stapleton had small-pox quite severely as a result of vaccination. Now he has recovered and left for a three weeks visit to Hinoise and Passen. I am

taking some of his classes and am otherwise busy. Had an opportunity this week to give the wedge another blow - in both Turkish and Armenian families. Some of the Turkish women were for putting me out when I did not succeed very quickly and told me plainly that all I wanted was the money. and then one of them stole a pair of scissors I used as an instrument. These were meddlesome neighbors of the family.

The husband of the patien
had confidence in me as
as one woman so I stayed
am still calling to fina
complete the cure.- I wen
to another wretched place
some two weeks previous
and found only a little
medicine necessary. On
turning I was offered $.80 a
I refused to take it - saying
buy some clothes for the poo
bride. Later the Turkish midw
came to tell me the man
could quite afford to pay - t
they were so ignorant they d
not know how to be comfortable
She received $3.20 for her serv
Well, Love is the fulfilling of the

Most Sincerely Yours Ida S. Stable

CRESCENT BOND

~~G. L. Roy~~

~~Freemontte - Nebr~~

Dr. R. Thom

JUN 11 1900
JUN 25 1900

Mardin May. 14. 1900—

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
Congregational House. Boston—

My Dear Dr. Barton:—

I see no letter from you to acknowledge — but I must acknowledge that beautiful group that came to hand by last post — You are certainly fine looking people — but we cannot help smiling at the impression and in doing so we put that beautiful little daughter at the head — Who would think it — those dear children having reached the stature they have — The picture is certainly fine — And we both thank you over and over so much for it — Mrs. R. has changed much since I last saw her — She has seen much sickness since then — I hope she has mostly recovered from it —

You will I am sure be interested in knowing what we have done for suffering India during the last three weeks —

Missionaries	$39.60
Midyat Ch. & Com.	30.80
Outsiders. Collected	14.65
Kalaat el Marra	4.18
Mardin Ch., S.S., Y.M.C.A.	125.09
Schools, Self Denial work,	6.91
	$221.23

Is there anything slow about that? The money has been sent

To Rev. R. A. Hume. Ahmednagar. Considering the condition of this people — two thirds of whom are at their wits end to know where their next days food is to come from — they have done remarkably well — If it will do any good to give it a place in the Congregationalist or Missionary Herald — pass it along — It might incite others — It is an awful cry that comes up from poor India —

Received the marked copy of the Missionary Herald — accept thanks — whoever sent it —

It would seem betwixt the two woman's Boards, the Prudential Committee — and Hellie Nursey — for will be no better off than we were — but like the poor woman who spent all her living on Dr — was no better, but rather worse — for will be rather worse — I am very much at my wits ends about the whole thing — You had better see if the Boards can agree on some one else — and leave us in the lurch because of them — and send Hellie elsewhere, if she wills so —

Again thanking You — both of us, from the bottom of our hearts — with love to each one of the Family — I am Your brother —

Yours very truly —
D. W. R. Shaw

Ahmednagar
May 14, 1900

131
DEC 3 1900
DEC 27 1900

Madin. Nov. 5. 1900

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
14 Beacon St. Boston.

Dear Dr.

I write to day, to inform you of our present condition as a station. You are aware Mr. & Mrs. Andrus with Miss Pratt will be in the States on this coach. Thus taking away our touring missionary, the one in charge of the Girls High School, and the one in charge of women's work. We thought we could provide for the most needy one viz. the Girls High School. But the best laid plans of men & mice fail. Miss Gray was laid up with intermittent fever when the party left, but was then gaining. She made a fairly good recovery for a time, then all at once went off with neurasthenia or nervous exhaustion, affecting mind and body, so that she is not only no help to the working force of the station, but takes a large share of the time, strength and nervous power of the remaining members of the station to care for her. The Girls High School is being run by native force, overlooked by Mrs. Dewey & Mrs. Thom. Can you think of me as being in a healthy condition. And when the whole thing is the result of this unreasonable, and unreasonable some foolery of faith divine, or any other name of healing?!

which had possession of Miss. Watt. and
herself for these years) and hon had no need of
a Dr. or his advise, so that I was never consulted
if any thing did ail them, they would always lie-
putting it in English = and say they were not sick.)
I was not called in this case until she was
so bad - She could no longer stand it = Then
of course no Dr. could bring her on her feet
at once - I had about decided to take her to
Aintab. where there is a ladie Physician, & a
trained nurse, but that would take me a way
~~a week~~ month for Mardin, and then what right had I
to put my - our - burden on an other Station.
So hon decided to keep her, and do the better
can for her, were it possible. I would send
her home, but how could that be done.? The
time may come when we shall be obliged to
send her, in that case I may telegraph you
to send her father for her, In that case I should
only telegraph. "Send Graf" You would understand
by that what was wanted. The Board could better afford
to send her father after her, than to have me leave
my work for so long a time, - These are the out-
lines of our condition - No time to write more -
We are crowded to our eye brows - Yours truly - S. M. B. Thom.

Received Nov. 6, 1890

JAN 9 1901
JAN 24 1901

Mardin. Turkey-in-Asia-
2/10/01-

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Congregational House, Boston. Mass-

My Dear Dr. Barton:-

Having nothing from you to acknowledge but thinking you might like to know something of Miss Grace's condition-

She makes no progress for the better- her case is pitiable yesterday she came into my study for fifteen minutes- the first time she has been in the house for weeks- As soon as she returned home she had a crying spell- Formerly she used to love our baby- and thought- a great deal of a small dog our horse- and now she cannot bear to hear sister of them come near her- so that made her cry- She cannot bear any noise- any company- any one in fact- She does not enjoy my coming now- And nothing seems to help her in the mind line- She cannot bear riding- nor any other exercise- and we are at our wits end to know what to do for her- to keep her at- all entertained- She eats fairly well. and sleeps by the aid of a powd- from 7 to 8 hours every night- Her great lamentation is "home- I wish I were home" Of course it is out of the question at this season

/32/

JAN 9 1901

JAN 24 1901

Mardin. Turkey-in-Asia-
2/10/01-

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Congregational House, Boston. Mass-

My Dear Dr. Barton:-

Having nothing from you to acknowledge but thinking you might like to know something of Miss Grace's condition-

She makes no progress for the better- her case is hopeless. Yesterday she came into my study for five minutes- the first time she has been in the house for weeks- As soon as she returned home she had a crying spell- Formerly she used to love our baby- and thought a great deal of a small dog or horse- and now she cannot bear to have sister of them come near her- so that made her cry- She cannot bear any noise- any company- any one in fact- She does not enjoy my coming room- and nothing seems to help her in the mental line- She cannot bear riding- nor any other exercise- and we are at our wits end to know what to do for her- to keep her all- all entertained- She eats fairly well. and sleeps by the aid of a powd- from 7 to 8 hours every night- Her great lamentation is home- "I wish I were home" Of course it is out of the question at this season

to attempt getting her home. She could not go alone.
And had could any of us leave our work to take her home?
She takes no comfort from her Bible — all its texts come to her
as denunciations — her prayers are spoken as an unbearing
cry. And you can imagine what her mental condition can be.
And this burden — the care of her — is laid on Mrs Rogers shoulders
over and above all her other work —

The rest of us are well — and plenty to do
keep us from becoming lonesome —

Yours truly
S. M. B. Thom —

Dec. 10, 1900

JAN 28 1901
FEB 20 1901

Mardin, Turkey,

My Dear Dr. Barton:-

At a meeting of the station held last evening - Your letter in regard to Mrs. Hoskins question about her son - was taken up and considered - After a prolonged discussion of the pros & cons - in his case - it was voted to invite Mr. Larkin - with provisos - back to this station - As Dr. Drury will take the matter in detail - I will only consider one of the conditions on which he was invited back. Viz - his physical status - One to look at him casually would consider him a mountain of health - but a closer acquaintance with him would show that he was not a respecter of his stomach - and in consequence of this over eating - he is two thirds of the time suffering from dyspepsia - will have a cup of soda sitting around - conveniently - so that he can take a dose when too much distress results from over loading - This may seem a light thing to give long form, gives at - but such conditions leads to the failure of other organs - and of all people to live with - deliver me from a dyspeptic -

He must pass a critical Medical examination by a competent physician - and it will be necessary for you to intimate to the examining dr. his weaknesses in this respect - Also his lungs - As you remember at the time of the death of his wife, he was in bed with pneumonia - Which is apt to leave the lungs in a weak condition - I call your attention to these things that they may

2

Dr. Barton -

be fully examined) and the facts of the case given. And if he has not made a radical change in his treatment of his stomach, and got entirely over his dyspepsia, should consider it sufficient cause for his rejection - on the score physical inability -

He has a number of short comings - but who of us have not? and a new man might bristle all over with them, however well fitted he might be otherwise -

His most prominent short coming - and to the work, and us most hurtful was his laziness - promptness was not one of his redeeming features - But we are in hopes that the experience he has been through, will have worked a mighty change in him, in every way -

Dr. Drury will go into these matters in detail, setting them before you, cleaned and polished in a clear form -

We are exceedingly particular that he should bring an extra good wife - should he come - not so much for his own sake, as for ours, coming as she will after the one he had, we will be hard to suit!

I am sorry to say Miss Graf gives no evidence of improvement - The rest of us are well - A happy new year to you all

Dec. 31/00. Yours very truly - D M B Thom

Mr. R. Rhoads, No. 8

Wanding, Dec. 31, 1900

O. E. SWETT,
REC'D JAN 26 1901
Ans'd .....

Respectfully

FEB 12 1901

Mardin. Jan. 14. 1901

FEB 20 1901

Rev. J. L. Barton. D.D.
Congregational House Boston –

My Dear Dr. Barton:–

Nothing from you to answer – yet – I feel I must keep you informed as to Miss. Graf's condition – as the time will soon be here when preparation must be made to get her home – Her condition is pitiable in the extreme – If she could have her own way – she would simply isolate herself from any one – feeling that she potentially who can come near her. No Meds. seem to do her any good – her case is seemingly hopeless – And what is to be done about her? To get her home some responsible, able bodied person should have her in charge – Miss. Chambers of Orfa I understand is thinking of coming in April – but whether it would be the right thing to ask a stranger to take such a charge – There is Dr. Hamilton of Aintab – or Miss Prowdfoot of the same place – their professions fit them either of them – to take charge of her and get her home – or would it not be better that her father should come as far as Beirut, or Alexandretta – to meet her, and take her home – She is now the burden of the station – and a deadweight for Mrs. Dwight – she has to be treated as an irresponsible child. The change, the awful change that has come over her, makes us all heart sick.

Mrs Thom was not well last week, and Baby is having a hard time with her teeth - she takes all the strength and time of Mother - as she objects to any one else, when at all ailing

Our week of prayer closed last night, with some encouragement, The students - both boys & girls have shown interest in this cause - than I have seen shown by any class of students during my stay here - and the young of the Cougar - There were many who desired to live a better life - and made promises to do so - I certainly the Holy Spirit was with us - The meetings were well attended throughout - There were the two regular meetings a morn and evening - with six extra meetings thrown in - I had charge of six of them - including two of the regular meetings -

Mr. Browne & Miss. Buck have been doing a grand work in Diarbekir for the last two months - It is evident - the Lord has been with them in much power - and a wonderful transformation has been going on during all these weeks - How I longed to go and help them - but the lack of language kept me at home.

We are having our first snow this afternoon - It looks a week more of Cumathan -

With kind regards to Mrs. B. son and daughter - & from us all - Yours Very Truly - D. M. B. Thom -

134
FEB 19 1901
FEB 20 1901

Mardin. Jan. 19/1901

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Congregational House
Boston Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton:-

I herein enclose my Annual report of the Medical and Hospital work in my care for 1900. The closing year of the century. It has been in many respects the hardest year of work I have put in. And yet the written record does not show it. The number of Rs are fewer. the numbers in the hospital not more. and the income for it all is even less. The time is not distant. at the present rate. when there will be no receipts. for Medical or any thing else.

There has been no quarterly letter written for the last two quarters. the first of the two was Miss Grace's & the last was Yours truly. But to confess what I feel in the matter. They are not worth the powder that is put into them. it is so much of a repetition. You might as well take the letters of the last year. or read them. and you are up to date! That is if we do not enter into the Political field. if we do that. there is always enough to write about. But I do not imagine that is of sufficient importance to the Mission Archives. to take our time from more useful work.

The important items of the last six months are already known to you — viz. the illness of Miss Prof. The departure of the Andrus & Miss Platt. The visit of the Consul from Koobekir. The sending out of several new workers. The departure of two young men to the Bagdad & Busoro fields. Salaries are bigger there — and so they flock southward like the migrating birds. There are now five or six who have gone from this field — working there — and others would like to go. Our helper in Jezirah has again been flayed by the Agha — makes twice in one year. 1000 piastres — nearly half his salary. To whom can we appeal? Those officials put out by our Govt. have no interest in such things. They say, "it serves them right. Why not let them alone as they are."

The work of prayer was in many respects a success. The young men, and women, especially those in the Schools, were interested. And many promised to press forward to the new life. The work is from now on, to gather them in and throw the arms of the Ch. around them — and thus help them in their new resolve. But the Nation is a poor help to young Converts. But this is intruding on the first quarter of the New Year, and New Century. Others may desire to expand.

Mrs. Graf is failing very much. We pray, & 'so earnestly for her but thus far no help comes. The Lord has some purpose for her we cannot comprehend. Yours truly. D. M. B. Thom.

D. W. B. Throw, M.D.,

Mardin, Jan. 19, 1901

135
MAR 11 1901
APR 26 1901

Mardin. Feb. 11. 1901

Rev James L. Barton, D.D.
Congregational House.
14 Beacon Street
Boston, Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton:—

Yours of Dec. 31st came to hand by last post. Thanks.

You speak of urging Miss Pratt to search for a lady for Mardin. Excuse us, we should very much object to any thing she might pick out. We have had enough of her kind. It is a question with me if her return is even desirable. That will appear later. Any thing that Mr. and Mrs. Andrus might pick up. We have full confidence in them. But to be honest, Miss Pratt has done but little in her special field. Her presence in a place makes but little impression on the women. The work in the field among the women is at a very low ebb. She is good as far as she knows. But having run off on "divine(?) healing" stuff, what useful-ness she did possess has been very much reduced. Miss Graf, I am sorry to say, makes no improvement. Mrs. Dewey tries to make herself think she is some thing. But I cannot see any encouragement. She must go home. But how she is to be got there, is a problem. We are looking around

for some one to whom we can trust her - We heard Dr. Shepard of Anbob - who is now in Diarbekir - was going home in the Spring - ! But from a letter from him the other day, in which he says - "I may remain here four or five months," in that case he cannot be thinking of going to Am. this Spring. She will not see any one - And that is her cry - "how can I go home - I cannot see any one, I don't want to go home - nor can I remain here. I am too much of a burden to you all." Here is a sad case - and our hearts are very sore for her - all the time -

It is time for the mail to go - We are so glad Mrs. B. is so well - much love from us both to her and yours & the dear children

Yours very faithfully.
D. M. Bitham -

136
MAR 26 1901
APR 26 1901

Mardin - Turkey - in - Asia -
Feb. 23d - 1901 -

Dr. J. L. Barton -
Congregational House -
Boston, Mass -

My Dear Dr. -

First - I write to inform you of the departure of Miss Graf for the Home Land. She left us last Tuesday (19) in company with Mrs. Drury who is to take her to Oorfa - and we are thinking of them as being there to night - I think Dr. Drury wrote you last week - giving you the facts - but being my province to inform you - I do so at the first possible opportunity - I went with them to Telarmin - and spent the first night with them - as we did not know how Miss G. would take the journey - But she did beautifully - and I am confident we shall have good news from her from Oorfa - Miss Chambers will take her in hand there - They have had beautiful weather the whole work - It could not have been better two months later -

Your letter of Jan. 24th to hand to day - telling of the Madison - Wis. Ch. Rev. E. G. Updyke. D. D. taking me for their Missionary - I must have been proved upon them - for they certainly have no personal knowledge of me. I recall being in their Church once in my life - when Dr Richards (?) was pastor - But to that as it may. I shall try to

Dr. Barlow.

make their acquaintance — for the money that is in it! Two posts ago — You elevated us up on top of the Mardin Castle — with the news of Your "LeRoy boy" and to day you give us such a tumble — it will take us some time to recover from it — We should have been less injured, had You been less precipitate in giving us the news. Such an "all round man" for Mardin — was a little more than could be expected — so we sit down again to our appealing for reinforcements!! It may be after some one has been called home! — that reinforcements will be found. But hope deferred maketh the heart faint — and we are becoming faint-hearted — Two appointments, and two disappointments — in close succession — cause us to feel — other than cheerful — 25th A tel from Corfu Yesterday — telling of the safe arrival of the Iranlare — Going through in five days — doing well for an invalid — We are running into a water famine again to all appearances — No rain to speak of all winter — and Feb. at an end. what can we expect further? Empty wells — a short crop — and dire distress to more than one of the people — Grain at present is cheap — Here it is 8 to 10 p a bushel — three days from here it is worth 4 p. barley 1½ p.!! but because of the unsafety of the road — it cannot be had here — We have goods in Aleppo that cannot be got here — the roads are all closed!! Yours truly D. M. B. Shore.

137
APR 1 1901
APR 26 1901

Mardin. Mch 4/01.

My Dear Dr. Barton —

The enclosed is a copy of what I have sent to Madison Wis. I have also sent my picture & some pictures of the houses & the city.

Kindly say to Mr. Pratt — that my Observing Table came yesterday. The Glass reservoir was in a box of sawing — it was by itself in the box — a small Empty box in along with it — Also a book was put in at Aleppo. The U. S. Dispensatory, that had been sent to me some months ago! So there was no reason why it should not be broken — But how came it to put in such a place — without protection is what I wonder at —

James D. M. Thom —

APR 1 1901
APR 26 1901

Mardin. E. P. M. Turkey-in-Asia.
Mch. 1st 1901

Rev. E. G. Updyke. D.D.
Pastor Congregational Church.
Madison Wisconsin.

My dear Bro. in Christ:—

The last post (they come only once a week) brought me a letter from our Sec. Dr. Barton, informing me of my adoption by your Church. As their Missionary in the field. To say I am surprised and flattered by the honor thus conferred upon me, but poorly expresses it. For you have no personal knowledge of me, or of my work, bring to my mind the only reason you could have for adopting me.

And now that you have adopted me, you will want to know something as to what you have adopted, where I am from, what my field is, where it is and what the work is. Of course I can give but a mere outline in a letter of this kind.

I am a Scotchman, 26 years of age, born in Leslie Aberdeenshire Scotland. At the age of 12 I was moved (?) to America. Wisconsin being our first resting place, spending a year each in Kenosha, and Racine Co., when the Western fever, and the great desire to be real estate holders moved us to Owatonna Steele Co. Minnesota, where my parents spent the remainder of their useful lives. They have both now gone home, the "last that remaineth" for me was a family of two sons, and four girls.

Father being a farmer - the children naturally took to that profession. While in my 17th year, I met with an accident that unfitted me from following my fathers profession - so turned my attention to another branch. - In Feb. of 1874 I rec'd permission to kill & cure (?) from the Faculty of Rush Med. College - Chicago Ill. During the spring and summer - I practiced at my profession - In Aug. I was married - going from the Ch. to the train that started us to the present field. My wife Jennie was living at that time in Madison, so we spent a week or ten days visiting them. Lending service in your Ch. the Sabbath we were there - which is the nearest approximate to home of the Church and its people. The Rev. Dr. Richards then its pastor -

We reached our distination, Mardin, Nov. 14, 1874 - after a fourteen days journey in land on horse back. Having left the sea at Alexandretta over three hundred miles to the east of Mardin. This is the only Arabic speaking Station of the E.P.M. The Mission consists of five Stations - Kerpot, Erzroom, Bitlis, Van, and Mardin - And as the last one is where we are located - we will confine our remarks to it. On our arrival we found the Station held by Mr. Bell and family - and a lady teacher Miss Sears - Mr. Andrus who had just lost his wife - we met at Alexandretta accompanied by Miss Parmelee and his two infant children on their way to the Home land - They returned the following year as Mr. and Mrs. Andrus - They are still connected with the Station - At the present time in America -

Since then, Dr. Dwight and wife joined the station, and are still on the ground — later Dr. Coles, now of Harpoot — and the Rev. Mr. Ainslie, now a pastor in Minnesota — and the Rev. Mr. Larkin, now a pastor in California — have all been connected with the Station. Also a Miss. Graf — who is now on her way to the Home land, broken down with severe prostration. — So that to-day the Station is held by Dr. Dwight & wife, Dr. Thom & wife. — Dr. D. has as his special work the charge of the schools. Mrs. Thom in the absence of a lady teacher has the over sight of the Girls' High School, and the Orphan Girls Schools.

While my special work is Medical — and gives a lifting hand where ever it is needed. —

Mardin is a City set upon a mountain — and cannot be hid. It has about 20 thousand inhabitants, half Christian, (Nom.) and half Moslem. The Christian are divided into Armenian, Syrian, Chaldean and Latin Catholic — Jakobite (Old Syrian) Protestant — and a few Plymouth brethren. The Protestant community numbers between 400 & 500. A Church organization — with a native Pastor. Church membership of about 120. There are six schools in the City, three of them cared for by the Community — the other three under Missionary care. While we have five schools on our own premises. These schools have four hundred & five scholars. There is in connection with the Ch. a Sunday school of nearly four hundred in attendance — of which I am Supt. — a Ch. prayer meeting twice a week — a communicants meeting once a week. A young women's

society - with a junior branch - both numbering one hundred and twenty five or more. a Young mens Society - anti Tobacco, anti Liquor. as well as being religious in its organization - The Ch. is only supporting. but they have a little aid towards their schools -

We have here a plant for three Missionary families - and two Young lady teachers - A Girls High School. A boys High School, and Preparatory department - with two orphan schools - a boys and a girls - the result of the "Revival" in 90. The Station has been calling for from or eight years to the Am. Chs. for a lady teacher to take charge of the Girls high school - but our Call has been in vain - And now we are calling not only for a Young lady. but also for a family - to come to our help. As we have all passed the meridian of life. and Young blood would be a stimulant to us all - May the Lord of the harvest to send home to the heart of some one the need of this field - And unless we get a Young lady soon we shall be obliged to close the Girls School the Coming School year which would be a great misfortune -

Our field, which is much contracted to what it was when first came here - then included Bagdad & Mosul - and their surrounding fields - Both of these great & populous towns have been handed over to the English Society - What remains gives us something like a square field - of 62,500 miles square - still more than around us - There are eighteen out stations - with six Chs. with only three pastors - In 90. two pastors were killed. and two others made to be made pastors. The other places are supplied

with preachers and teachers—

By taking a map of Turkey in Asia you will find Mardin in Lat. 37° 8' 29" Long. 40° 0' 58" E— by the Aneroid our houses are 3444 feet above sea level. The City is picturesquely situated on a range of Mountains rising up abruptly terminating in a high point on which was built a Castle which in its day was almost impregnable. It is facing the south—looking down a thousand feet on the broad and magnificent plain of Mesopotamia = Where the Euphrates and Tigris, the residence of Bethuel, Abram, Laban, and Jacob, or how an unobstructed view as far as the horizon will permit. The City is long and narrow, running a half circle around the face of a high range. The houses all built of white lime stone—rising in tiers one above the other—all flat roofed—covered with earth—so that in many instances, the roof of one becomes the door yard of the one above it. It is a hard place to get around in there are only two streets that can be called in a measure level, running from East to West: the rest are all down or up—in many places steps. It is like all Oriental Cities, very filthy. Its situation gives it the true gift of being cleaned about twice a year: by the heavy rains otherwise it would be next to untenable—

So much for an introduction—And now a little as to my own work. And I think the letter will be sufficiently long for my first one. As it would not do to lay yourselves in the beginning as

6

We arrived Saturday afternoon - had a cordial reception from Missionaries and Native - giving us a home quite at home - Sunday I had my first professional call to stanch a hemorrhage from the wrist of a laborer who had met with an accident - and notwithstanding their bandaging they were unable to control it - I had in order to stay it - ligate the brachial artery - so that was my introduction to Mardin - There had been no arrangements made for my seeing cases - So I had to give up my study for consulting and dressing room - using my Cook for interpreter as we set right at work. as the sick would not wait off - until I had acquired the language - After we began to have little ones of our own, we deemed it necessary to move the motly crowd to a place less approximate to our sitting room - So a small room 15 x 20 feet - was put up joining the house - and in that I did my work for upwards of ten years - Treating on an avg - ten to twelve thousand cases a year - But as time went on, it was found necessary to seek more accommodious quarters - So after much trying and no end of effort with the local authorities - Ground was broken for a new building 20 x 60 feet. two stories high - which took two or more years to finish - At last we were permitted to open - Three days were given for - and upwards of five hundred were treated - From that time on, two days in the week were given to the poor, when I would see from 75 to 125 patients a day - The other days of the week there would be a much smaller number - but always enough to keep me busy

7

The upper story was divided into two rooms. Men's and women's wards! And an operating room. Two beds in one and four in the other. While down stairs there were two waiting rooms, a consulting room, the dispensary and a guest room.

After our cramped quarters for so many years. We felt we had now elbow room. My patients included all classes of people - and from all communities - and from all distances. Cataracts is a common trouble in some parts of this country. And they would come from far and near for treatment to. Present date I have operated 260 times for that one trouble.

The range of practice has been very extensive - and not only that, but I was the only missionary physician for the Eastern, and nearly all of the western mission. I would have calls of other stations by telegraph a distance of two and three hundred miles. To be away from home two, three, and four months at a time. My field then extended from Mosul on the south to the Black Sea on the North. Van to the East - to Cesarea to the West. But now there are missionary physicians at Cesarea, Marsovan, Erzroom, and Van - and good native Drs. in most of the other towns. So that my field has been greatly curtailed - which is as it should be. For after twenty six years of practice in this land I should hardly feel equal to such an extensive field. The number of prescriptions written to date number 295 + 79 - not including the many I have seen to whom no prescription was given

I think this will suffice for this time. At some future date, I may find time to give you some of the characteristics of the people. And I should be glad to have you ask questions. It would be much easier writing to you, if you would do so.

Again thanking you for the honor done me. I shall be pleased to remember you as a Christian in the throne of grace. And we shall certainly expect the same in return from you. We shall trust that this mutual relationship may be for the spiritual growth, and deeper interest in the cause of missions to bless you.

I will add in conclusion that my family consists of wife and a two year old daughter here. And two daughters in Elen. one in Duluth Minn. as teacher. The other in Northfield Mass. in the Moody school. The first Mrs. Thomas the mother of the daughters in Ala. passed to her rest Jan 16. 1888. The present Mrs. Thomas was a teacher here in the Girls High School. and became my wife July 1/89.

I will enclose some pictures. which may be of interest to you. And hoping to hear from you from time to time. With Christian salutations to all the Church.

I am my dear brother.

Yours in the work

A. M. B. Thomas

Olandre, Dec. 15, 1901

Dixsbeskin. Apr. 4, 1901.

Dear Dr. Thom

Your note enclosing letter from Mr. Browne reached me in due course as did also the specimen of urine. The letter shows nothing which might not be accounted for on the hypothesis of simple hypertrophy of the prostate.

Mr. Browne's letter certainly looks suspicious. I wish I could go to Harpoot at once, but do not see how I can leave until after the 20 of this month. You spoke of coming up here for a visit. Can you not do so and go up to

Hospital with me? I
enclose a copy of my
schedule of operations for
8 days beginning with
Monday next. I should
enjoy a visit from you
very much, as well as
your assistance in the
surgical work, if you
chose to give it.

Please give my re-
gards to Mrs. Thom
and again accept my
thanks for your kindness
in sparing me those medi-
cines. Pardon brevity
I am very tired to-night.

Sincerely Yours,

F. D. Shepard

MAY 6 1901

Mardin - April 8 - 1901 -

Rev James L. Barton, D.D.,
Congregational House.
No. 14 Beacon St., Boston -

My Dear Dr. Barton:-

Yours of Feb. 20th came duly to hand - thanks for same - Miss Graf must be in Am. by this time. She was to be in London about the first inst. When last heard from - Port Said - she was doing nicely. Her journey has been the making of her - or rather, the bringing of her back to her own again -

Dr. Shepard is still in Diarbekir overwhelmed with work - he has come there, and cut off much of my revenue - he has taken in money by the baskets full - beginning with to day. he has for the next 8 days - has some 32 operations waiting for him! And it has been going at that rate for over two months - He has invited me up to help him for a few days - so I am going to-morrow. Had a letter from Mrs Browne a week ago describing some ailments of hers - And as Dr. J. is hoping to go to Bitlis before returning to Aintab - so I turned the letter over to him - I enclose you his note - asking me to go with him to Bitlis - Her letter as he says, does not give a very favorable outlook for her case. But I do not think we both need to go unless it were for an "outing" and I dont think that is called for

at present = If I were going for an Outing, I should want to take my family — I will see what he has in mind. I feel very much troubled about Bro. B. midst he sister. I am sorry he could not go Earlier — But he is in for getting all the money there is in it = and dont propose leaving while there is any in sight = And more than that he is planning to return after going to Am. and spend all yr in D. — ! I dont wish to be a dog in the manger, but I think it is out side of his field —

We are suffering for rain again — Wells all low — fountains drying up — People already buying water — ! And more than 5 months before the fall rains can be looked for — Yet the Lord may have mercy upon the land and send some rain yet = before we get into the summer — It has been looking like it for 30 or more hours — but seems to be clearing up again this morning —

No time for more — with warm regards to the dear family — in which wife & baby joins

Yours very truly

D. W. C. Thom —

Paradise, Apr. 8, 1901.

Mardin Sept. 16. 1901 —

E. H. Daniels D.D.,
Boston Mass —

My dear Dr Daniels:—

Your good letter of Aug. 16 came to hand by last post — As to the Nestorian ship it is thus far one sided — having nothing from the Madison Ch. My sister wrote me saying she had seen my letter to the Ch. in Print — do not suppose it was backed there. I will in time get them off something more — some of it does not concern them — for your sake —

The lady you spoke of as insisting on her having her application accepted — giving three Dr as evidence of her health and strength — & my mind so many Drs without any other evidence was enough to cast her overboard. So I thank you, I have had enough of that class of cases to practise on.

And now as of your Fandango — which has been yanked through Allegs and appointed to Mardin. And bringing up 3/4 in. and measuring in proportion — Can she be put out in anything less than section? And how about her being put together here? For should get her together wrong side to — for she would never be able to master the Arabic language —

But Nelly My dear Dr - we are reduced to the condition of the old maid who went out in the dark under a tree to pray the Lord for a man - an Owl sitting in the tree says "Who" - she says Any one Dear Lord. any one! we have got to the point of any one - we will neither question length nor weight -

Time is up so I must close, Please say to Dr Smith thanks many for his good letter I will hope to answer it soon -

Yours very truly
L. M. R. Thom

Flourtown, Sep. 16, 1901

Mardin. Sept 30. 1901.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Congregational House
Boston Mass.

My dear Dr. Smith:-

It was a pleasure and seemed like old times to get a letter from you — and I thank you for the kind words contained therein —

To be frank in regard to Dr. Shepard - it showed an over stepping disposition on his part to come an eight-days journey to Kiut-Diarbekir for the purpose of practice - when it was only two days distant from here - and in fact the only large city in my field - where as he has a number of them in his field - and his returning to spend another year in the same place is what I call over reaching. and a little more than grasping. His coming now will be of less importance than it was - or would be - had not the Germans put a Physician there - to work up their Orphan work, that so ignominiously fell through a year ago - His coming cut off a large portion of my revenue from that region - I thought less of it at

the time because I understood he was working on his own cost to get money for the education of his children — And as the College did not help him in that respect, he was in a measure justified in ~~using~~ any effort he could to do so. But his returning now is decidedly uncalled for — and an intrusion on other peoples territory — And now as you say the field is filled up with the most recent product of the Medical Schools — we shall not be able to turn around without bumping up against each other! Quite as 20 years ago. My field was the Empire. I am glad for the Missionaries to have it so — But when Dr. Ussher calls for another doctor to assist him — there being two there already — I think it is carrying the doctoring business a little too far —

Glad to hear good news of Dr. Barton — may his mission be all that was hoped for it —

With kindest regards to Dr Danielson

I am very faithfully Yours

D. M. B. Thom —

Mandalay, Sep. 30. 1901

Rec'd Oct. 28

APR 28 1902
APR 29 1902
MAR 30 1902

Mardin. T. T.

Rev. E. L. Barton D.D.
Congregational House, Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr.

Notwithstanding this is the most beautiful Easter morning one could wish to look upon - and because its memories and its grand results, do my heart ought to be in the greatest of ecstasy - yet our hearts are sad - and filled with deep sorrow - and do what we can - we cannot rest off the sadness -

You know Dr. Drury has been more or less of an invalid since his return from Am. the last time - but still he has been able to do his part of the work willingly, and cheerfully. At this no doubt he has been doing it under a far greater strain than we even realized. As he seemed to keep up an appearance of flesh and vigor - that has no doubt deprived him of the degree of sympathy that was due him - he has had a considerable flow of blood taking it all along - but has had but little pain until lately - now he thinks he is scarcely free from it - A year ago I sent home a discharged clot for microscopical examination - it was reported simply a blood clot - Some three months ago - he passed what appeared to be tissue - and I sent that up to Dr. Chapard in Diarbekir - as he has a good microscope - and I have not - and he and Dr. Krabb a German doctor in D. decided it was a simple papilloma - & on the strength of that came down to Mardin prepared to operate - it was thought best - but taking everything into consideration it thought best to defer it until Sept. when Dr. J. would be back in Diarbekir. and Dr. Drury could go there - But about a month

ago, he discharged another piece which I again sent to Dr. C. And yesterday I got the result of their examination, and I will quote — "Dr. Knobb and I completed the examination of the hardened and stained specimen from Dr Dewey's tumor yesterday. The specimen being so much larger than the last, gave a better opportunity for making sections and a thorough study. You will be sorry to hear that there are one or two foci of unmistakable carcinomatous degeneration in the otherwise typical papilloma. The change seems to have only recently begun, so that if the tumor could be promptly extirpated he might have a fair chance of recovery." &c &c. He then goes on to suggest Dr. D's going to D. and he expatiates on as he considers Dr. Knobb an able assistant &c. but at the same time confessing he does not grasp the case. It is impossible to know the extent of the disorder until the bladder is opened by a supra pubic cystotomy. It is possible to imagine almost any thing — or every thing. We at first thought we had nothing but an enlarged prostate gland.

But this new complication may be a growth in the enlarged gland — or it may be in any other part of the bladder — and it may be so extensive as to require the extirpation of the entire bladder — necessitating the transplantation of the ureters into the rectum — certainly not a very pleasant prospect.

Dr. & Mrs. Dewey have our deepest sympathies and we are exceedingly anxious he should have the best possible Medical Skill. It is not a case where dollars and cents should come in play. it is a life, and a valuable one. And it seems to me nothing should be left for future regret — so that my earnest wish is for him to take his chances of a few more weeks of delay and avail himself of the best possible advantages, by seeking aid at home — either in New York or Baltimore, and still later at [illegible] they prefer to take their chances in Dr. Shepards hands. I will not oppose

but do all I can to further the best results. Last night they seemed quite resigned & disabled. But after mature thought they seem more inclined to risking the trip home. They will not decide before tomorrow morning. It is a stroke, lightning from a clear sky to us. We are almost upset by it. Mr. Andrus and myself had planned to start out on a tour of the field together the coming week. Now he must go himself to the school, for all of the very great need the field stands in of being visited. But as I read this morning "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor your ways, my ways &c" so that we can but simply bow to what He sees fit to send us. How much we do need another man here, and yet the Country does not seem to take it to heart.

(Excuse my [illegible] unsettled)

Monday 1 P.M. We had our Station meeting this morning, and after prayerful consideration of all sides of the question, it was voted to give Dr. Dewey accompanied by Mrs. Dewey, leave to visit Beirut, for Medical treatment, and if after a thorough examination by the Medical men, Dr. Post &c, there, it was considered best for them to continue their journey to the U. S. for the treatment needed they had permission to go on. All things considered it was considered that this was the best plan. Dr. Dewey at once throws up the School, Mr. Andrus taking it up, his other duties he will turn over to us, as he gathers up the threads and try and be ready for their departure the coming week. It is all so sudden, death looking, & all that. But it is a comfort to see how the Lord does sustain them, in this hour of perplexity. Give Mardin station an extra five minutes at the throne of Grace every day as you carry this work to the heavenly Father. Pray for a blessing upon us, and His work.

Yours, Very truly, D. M. B. Thom

D. M. B. Thorn, M.D.
Nhardui, Mch 30, 1902

Urfa - Turkey —
July 2nd 1902

Rev. J. Smith D.D.:
Congregational House Boston.

My dear Dr

You will no doubt look at the heading and then at the signature - and try to reconcile this relationship - but the facts are stronger than fiction - and I find myself here in the City where Abraham is supposed to have watered his flocks & I arrived here last Saturday morning - June 28th - and am anchored here for a few days awaiting the arrival of Miss. Chambers who has in her charge a niece of Mrs Thomas who is coming for a visit to our Turkish home - and some one, in some way, having blundered - I am here a week a head of time - and while thus waiting, have an opportunity to see, hear & digest some facts - I have been jotting down some observations and had intended extending them, and writing them up - and possibly sending you a copy - on my return home - But this morning - while at breakfast Miss. D. asked me if I would not write you a letter, telling you some things as I saw them - As she has the impression you feel you do not receive a sufficient number of letters from her - that fact she fully realizes - but at the same time, she also finds that 24 hours in the day are altogether too few for the amount of work she has to do - outside of letter writing - then how is she going to get these letters written? Do you see any way?

As I said I came here Saturday morning. I saw but little of her, or her work that day - not seeing her, showed she was busy - Sunday morning came, and here is the work of the day - as far as I saw it. Preaching in the Chapel in the Syrian quarter, which I attended - the Pastor being absent at the Annual Meeting - his son, a youth, held forth in his place. In the mean time a Sunday School was in session in the large Church attended by the Protestant Community - about 400 present - Miss S. has the oversight of it. When this is out, Sunday School number two comes together. Consisting of the Orphans of the City, and any and all outsiders who desire to come in. 730 present last Sunday morning - often up to 1000 - Miss S. has the oversight of this - At the close of this session - the C. E. Societies met - 2 Adults, male & female, 2 Junior, do. and 2 Infant - making six in all. To all of which I was latent - and had to address a few words to each - Miss S. accompanying me. She has the oversight of all these - has to mother all of them - which you can see, is no small item to have on ones mind. Thus a greater part of the forenoon is passed as they begin these Exercises at six in the morning. In the afternoon she meets her Bible-readers - 7 or 8 - hears their reports, gives each a word of cheer, and encouragement. Say 8 x 60 = 480 p a month - Each having 40 to 42 pupils = 336 persons, bring said to a little more than 4 ¢ a piece a month - Could one puzzle a better investment for their money? Two hours before sundown the bell rings again in the large Church, and people gathering

from all quarters until the body of that large building is well filled - which will seat 12 to 1500 - At the ringing of the second bell, Preaching begins - in the absence of the Pastor at the Annual Meeting - The head teacher of the High School efficiently fills his place - Again in the Evening the Orphans - the Girls in their place - and the boys in theirs - sent for a lesson - or visited them both - addressed afew words to each - Thus, there had been some twelve gatherings at which Miss. S. found herself present at - and paid more or less to each one - That for her is a Sabbath days work - I think rather exceeds the Lord's Commands - Who hath said "and Ye shall rest from all your labors" it shall be unto you a day of rest" - her Sabbaths are thus spent - Monday Morning breakfast at 5.30 off at 6 to meet her Industrial workers, of which she has 122, and meets them twice a week - half of them one day, and half the other, To mend, and look over their work, & deal out new work, paying them for their labor - takes her, with the aid of her assistants from 5 to 6 hours each of the days. Not only has she been the means of furnishing them with the staff of life - but she has changed them from careless, dirty people to neatness - Cleanliness, and wide awakefulness - so that it is a pleasure to sit - and look into the faces of that vast crowd - sitting waiting for their turn - as all are called up by number - It was a privilege I greatly enjoyed, sitting for an hour watching her and them - in their relationship to one another - Completely under her control - a look, or the snap of the finger, at once brought perfect

silence - It is impossible to go into details of which there is no end - and ink on paper makes a poor impression on the mind, compared to seeing and hearing with our own eyes & ears - So, dear Dr. you could do nothing better - nor spend money to no better interest of the Board - than to visit the missions in Turkey, and see them for your self - much new light would come to you - that pen & ink cannot convey - The above, is one of the many things she had to attend to on Monday - While in the morning, for my benefit, she entertained the German friends at dinner, so that the social is not neglected in the over rush of more important matters -

Tuesday - We again breakfast at 5.30 - so that we may be off to attend the graduating exercises of the first Class in the Gregorian Ch - of holocaust fame - On our arrival the exercises had already begun - the house well filled with men, women, & children - They set us up on the highest seat of honor - The exercises lasting nearly 4 hours - declamations, and orations, by eleven students who were to take their diplomas - and speeches by many of those present - took up the time fully -

And when the time came for presenting the diplomas - I was permitted to see a sight - I had not before witnessed in the Orient - A lady to stand up in an Orient Ch - and make a speech before a mixed multitude and present with her own hands to each of those bright - intelligent - boys the diplomas they had so well earned - Was a new thing to me - And made a deep impression upon m

In this Connection - at the expense of repeating for I am sure of course seen the same figures - but it will bring them again fresh to your mind - showing a little more emphatically the enormous burdens resting upon Miss. D. - shoulders - here = The Schools of which she has had the full oversight - during the absence of Miss. Chambers. Schools 19. Pupils 1059. Teachers 24. To be sure she has an excellent School Committee under her - but all has to come for her consideration and approval - having to bear the oversight of all - do it - a light load? After the Close of the Exercises she invited the teachers - 4 in number - and the graduating Class to lunch - insisting on keeping up her personal and motherly relations to each one - throwing her loving influence around them at all times - thus exerting a lasting impression upon them - whether in the school - in the field or where ever they may be. As I said, we had breakfast at 5.30 A.M. and dinner at 8 P.M. at least she is up an hour before breakfast = and an hour after dinner - are the remaining hours too many to give to resting? or should she spend some of them in writing letters to the Rangoon? As I remarked to some one the other day that Miss. D. did the work of several people - he replied by saying - She did the work of 30 - would that she could be in the Queens Chair - we would have a better Government = She has won the hearts of all - has a controlling influence over all.

Let a lady pass along the street - who ever she may be - the children call after her "Miss. Chatterick" "Miss. Chatterick" showing that no one can take the place of Miss. C. But looking at it from my stand point - her burden is all together too great - even with the presence of her able associate Miss. C. Even then the work is too great - is there no way of helping them - is not this work worth more than is put into it? You have her report of Jan. 15. 1902 - have you any other "Institution" or even Institution that can give such a showing? I will quote no figures - but if you have forgotten you can easily refer to them - her report consisted of 17 pages no small matter to arrange and write up - and still you are calling for more!

One might write a book (!) and not exhaust the subject here - but I think this will be all you will care for from such a pen - I am more than pleased to be able to say this much for Miss C. & her work - which needs no help from such as I - to explain it to the world - it is a work that will go down to the Eternal ages - a monument that will out last all the marble & bronze that could possibly be raised for her - Excuse me for any purpose I can choose - from a humble Co. worker -

Yours very truly

D. M. B. Thom

N.B. Miss Chambers is expected to reach here Saturday of this week July 5

Wrote for Pres'd - July 2 1902

AUG 11 1902

Hardin. July 15. 1902.

Rev James L. Barton D.D.
Congregational House -
Boston. Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton:—

Your letter of June 11-13 was awaiting me on my return from Urfa - hence I had gone to bring Dr Mar. Mattie who came with Miss Chambers as far as that place. You were so kind to write us so faithfully about our dear loved Bro. Dr. Dwight - Of course we had the news of his death long ago - but any and all particulars in regard to him are sparely avail - Dr. Morgan has also been so kind in writing - So far as yet no particulars later than yours. We cannot - dear bro. realize our loss yet - All this not a day nor scarcely an hour passes but what a pang goes through my heart - when it comes over me that Dr. Dwight will not again return to us - He was so cheerful, so hopefull, had such strong faith - it was a joy to read his letters - But he has entered on to rest - well earned rest - But the lone widow & daughter how our hearts go out to them in their terrible bereavement - so crushing - so sudden - God be their comfort - I am overwhelmed in work, not knowing which way to turn - so cannot write more now - Bobby is quite ill & we must get her to the seashore to morrow or next day - With loving regards to you & yours - I remain. Yours truly

S M Zwemer

H. M. B. Thorn, M. D.
Marding July 15, 1902

SEP 9 1902

Mardin. Aug. 12th 1902.

SEP 23 1902

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
Congregational House.
Boston. Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton:

When I went out to the garden last Saturday evening I was met with the question "Are you willing that Mr. Ainslie return to Mardin?" It was a question I was entirely unprepared for, and consequently I was taken by surprise. So I in turn asked "Who asks the question?" They said "Dr. Barton" and that surprised me still further — for after the Mission vote of a year or more ago — we thought there could be no room left for such a question. And you must know, it is a very embarrassing one to us — for us to have to draw line after line on such a delicate subject. When a man considers himself qualified for a position it is rather hard on his associates to be obliged to give judgment to the contrary — who ever he may be — will be sure not to take it in the spirit intended. And the result will be a formation of feeling other than loving. Do not after all that had been said it was hardly fair to lay this other burden upon us. Dr. Gates said "let the Mission vote upon it" inasmuch as he is going out of the Mission it will be a small matter to him. Why did you not ask him to consider —

himself a member of the Mardin Station - and vote them and there
on the question? or how would he vote in Harpoot if that Station
were asked to take him? - Has he forgotten Mr. Ainslie &
his work, when they were together in the Station?
According to Mr. Ainslie's own statement he is doing a
good work where he is - why spoil a good Pastor, to make
a poor Missionary? These words are not intended for
the public - I take liberties with you, I would not with others
you say put the question to the Mission - dont you know
that the Mission would say - Mardin knows - if they want
him, why should we object - And if we start the vote
putting our names in the negative - the others would all
do the same - So that not so? So that the burden which
your way we move our shoulders under it - hurts - and
cannot help exclaiming - Why did you lay it upon us?
When a new man is to be appointed - you accept or
reject - without consultation with the Mission - Why did
you not do so in his case?

We put the matter to soak for a week before taking final
action - but all the same it has to be taken - Let us see how
many are there in the Mission now that know Mr. Ainslie -
We two here - two in Harpoot - one in Bitlis, & one in Van - H.
many who do not know him. Two in Harpoot one in Erzroom
one in Bitlis, one in Van - & who know him, and & who do not
and why should they vote either way? Supposing all who know
him voted for his return - and the others did not vote
either way -

would his Call be a majority? Or, were in Hardin voted in the Negative, and all the rest of the Mission voted in affirmative, would the P. C. be treating Mr Hardin right to send him? If he was out as he suggests for a time, until others were provided — would that shaken the efforts of the P. C. to send the proper men as early as possible? Because it cannot be borne in mind that men cannot be forth coming for this station at no distant day — those on the Ground now almost reached the allotted age of life — threescore — and when we get to living on borrowed time, it behooves us to have our loins girded and be ready for work at a moments notice — so, do not dally with this important work here —

Have you no one in mind for the School? he needed to be an all round man — ready to be driven into a square hole at any time — a man who has had experience in teaching I should think would be preferred. Miss Fenenga has a bro. who is in charge of an educational institution in Ashland (?) Wis: who is ordained and had the Missionary fever to the extent of being on the verge of banishment — but his wife stood in the way — and they remained at home — I do not know if circumstances have changed at all — only I know he has two small children since that time — nor do I know his age — nor aught else about him — further than that I know his sister would be delighted to have him come — may be too old — I think a man over 30 should not be sent — but Peters could easily be spared too and the minds of the Sec'ys approached in regard to him — I alone am responsible for this —

and I may have already said too much — so pard
and over look shortcomings —

One word more of a private nature — it must be considered
for I would not have it be the means of hurting anyone
feelings for the world — And that is — in one of your former
letters said something about Mrs Sawyer returning to the Sta
I do not so much as know that she has an idea of returning
if she should — or be put up to such a thought — would
P. C. think of sending her back)? There is no work for
she is filled connected with the Station — Had we
number of Orphans — she would be just the one to look
them — of course, had we large schools — she would be invaluable
as a Matron — but as matter of these first here — it follows
there is really nothing for her to do — Could she be put
charge of some of your Homes there — Tauk, or
Ther — she would be a success — Now my bro. this was call
forth by your letter — but — be careful how you use
long of you —

Yours very truly,
D. M. B. Thom —

Rec'd FEB 4 1903

145

Mardin. Turkey-in-Asia.
Jan. 5/03.
Ans'd.

James L. Barton, M.D.

My dear Dr. Barton:-

I think I have never answered your letter of Sept. 23d - for which accept thanks - Enclosed find a partial report of my work - it is impossible to put all the work in shape of a report - but the leading items may be thus brought together -

We are altogether too busy to write letters. And there seems to be no indication of any let-up to it - no word of any helping hand -

Yours very truly -
D. W. B. Thomas

Mr. B. Thomas
Northwestern Co.
5/1/93

Rec'd JUN 22 1903

Ans'd AUG 3 1903

Mardin. May 22. 1903.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
Congregational House, Boston

My Dear Dr.

It is some time since your letter of Feb. 6th came to hand - but as there was nothing special to answer, and time for letter writing is not very abundant - and aside from that, you know the news from others, Reputation is wearing to people as fully occupied as you are - so long silence will not be looked up as neglect -

There is certainly nothing pleasant to write about - nothing to rejoice the heart in this land - joy is a forbidden pleasure to the people of this land - Our own field is full of bloodshed, robbery and dishonesty. The country to the North-East of us one vast boiling with quake - from Bitlis to Balasun - whole villages having disappeared - thousands of people, & animals destroyed - estimated at 4000 people - but who can get any estimate from such a set as this - But you will have more for literature of the state of things than we do. It was fully three weeks after the terrible upheaval before we began to hear of it. It was scarcely noticed here - Very few people felt it - and very few believed those who said they did - But it was too awful a truth to those in the region where it was the most active - "There is no peace to the wicked saith my God."

April 10. Mr. John Campbell. of whom you know based from other places, came to Mardin. He was not in first-class condition - on account of his throat - and had to take things easy for a time -

P.S. for a Spiritual minded one — Let him be a Salvation Army man — or a "Jumping Methodist" — I said so. only that he may come filled & overflowing with the Spirit. We from here as long. dragged down to such a depth by the plant weight upon us — that our Spiritual lives are away to low par — and we need more of the power of the Spirit.

I am not writing this to find fault with any one — I am simply what I consider facts — what I would say on the stand were I called upon to testify. Just as Mr. A. did in making up his Yearly report showing but little of the shady side of it — and calling the most Spiritual Church — Ch. members who loan out money at 60%. and are always in a fight — one with another. I call much Spirituality in them? With a pastor who has not first interest in our Educational work. has for some one of them given to the Lord — only one we can call Conv. and not a boy from the Ch. or Com. in our high sch. "By their fruits ye shall know them" —

It is said that there is to be an annual meeting — if the movements of Earth here Van in Rest until the time appointed which is in the boiling season of the year — middle of July — & pity those poor boys — Mr. Andrus, & Miss. Tamanga. go from here — But I don't quite feel, to make those poor people go at their own expense — such a hot. hard journey — Nor is it fair to ask us to take their app. out of appropriations — when we have not enough to run our work into gear now! But I have said enough, & more, I write long ago to Mrs. B. the Sec. in which Mrs. Thom joins — I remain

Yours truly. S. M. B. Thom

We left us May 1st for Diorbakir - and we now in Oorfa - getting there day before yesterday - His work here was blessed to the younger people of the community & schools - but with pain I have to report no impression having been made on the Ch - as a Ch - and the condition of the Ch - prevented the working of the Holy Spirit with greater power among the young people - We praise God for what has been done - but we sorrow over the lack of the greatest blessing we might have had - We are trying to do what we can to gather in what has begun to spring up - that they may be strengthened and confirmed in their new resolves, where so little spiritual life exists in the Ch. it is hard on new beginners to grasp, and hold on to the great truths - Quite a number have made application to be admitted to the Ch.. and the Cont. is now going through what they call examining them - It might be called telling us of school - but I am sure you would not for a moment imagine that a good woman like Mrs. Andrus would oppose rivals! but it is still a fact all the same - and she objects to the younger girls offering themselves for Ch. membership - and of course her word has much weight with the Cont: and some of the converts to this being examined - they would refuse this thing admittance for the present - It has been a millstone on the necks of any Evangelist - that has been here - her attitude in regard to Evangelistic work - Do not understand me that she is opposed to anyone becoming a Christian - far be it from me to make such an accusation - but she cannot approve of any extra effort - any thing indicating excitement - I must be

D. P. Stevens, Sec. Nov. 20/1905

by the "still small voice", or it does not have her approval - I fear, Mr. Andrus is more or less influenced by her opinions. You know by early training he was brought up as a Presbyterian and of course was never brought in contact with shouting Methodists or Salvation Army workers. So has had no education in that kind of work. Where as I have been in a measure brought up with that class - and it is hard for me to keep within the bounds of Presbyterian light-loving. So taking it altogether on such occasions we do not pull very evenly. We cannot carry out Paul's injunctions to the Romans 12:11. "Fervent in spirit; serving the Lord" in that slow humdrum way. As we have it in the Arabic translation "hot in the spirit". We cannot be hot, or dull at the same time. Our field has not had any Evangelistic work in it all these years. You know Mr. Andrus as well as I do. A faithfull, hard working man. Works to live at peace with all. Cannot say no to any request - and will preach & pray - his prayers are awfully long - & do Bible work - when in the field. But the bulk of his work has been given to arranging political affairs to the great loss of spiritual work. The opposite of Mr. Bos who would have nothing to do with community affairs - but preach Christ & him Crucified. The people are so burned with their Goat relations - and so much opposition from the Goat - it is hard for any one to resist - helping them of their. But they do not remain helped - and that is not what we are here for. As I understand it - Our first duty to the people is to tell the kingdom of Christ is at hand. So in securing us a fa

See within for p. 4.

Rec'd AUG 24 1903
~~Rec'd AUG 42 1903~~

Ans'd OCT 1 1903

Mardin - July 27. 1903 —

Rev. James L. Barton D.D.
Boston - Mass —

My Dear Dr Barton: —

About one month ago I made out our Estimates for 1904 and sent them on to Mr Dart - supposing he would forward them to Boston - But a letter for him by last post asks "If they are for him - or to be sent to Boston - if for Boston telegraph". It would cost 10 piastres to telegraph - I can send them to you direct for 2 p. so, notwithstanding a little late, I have made a copy to day and send you by this post =

I understand Mr. Andrus has written you of the needs of the field - and the great lack of funds to meet the yearly increasing demands for the extension of work. To-day I hear of 3 new villages who want teachers! but we have not even dared to ask for funds for our next year graduating classes - What shall we do with them? And last year we carried on the work on the bases of the estimates as I did not find the appropriations until after the close of the year (!) so we closed the year 90 £ in debt - so the coming six months we are making an unheard of retrenchment - and are cutting of 1/5 of all salaries to the close of the year - which will but partially meet the deficiency - Cannot Boston give us a 100 £ or so, to tide over this mighty wave? It is a long

time since you have done any thing extra for Mordin-
And here we have been saving for the Board for a whole year-
Mr. A. & myself have been carrying the work of three - Just
give us the other means Sally - and we will make you our
profound salaams - It is going to be an awful pull on the
workers to take so much out of them in so short a time -
but so far they have cheerfully accepted the conditions -
Mrs. Andrews and myself are alone holding the fort - You
will have heard of the raid made on Harpoot - Unfortunately
the time was not auspicious as Mr. Dr. Dolin is having a
hard run of fever - and sickness in a station is rather a
drawback to having company - It is the first time Mrs
Thom has seen Harpoot - and I was anxious to have her see
it - and meet the circle before it broke up wholly - I understand
Mr. Browne & wife, Miss Buck & Miss Daniels - go to the states
this fall - But few old ones will remain! Here Browne
up and end him back - Harpoot cannot get along without him
much less the E.T. Mission -

You may have heard of our daughter Minnie going to the
Island of Hawaii. to the City of Kohala - to teach in a Girls
Boarding School (Govt.) The teaching will be in English -
She took her graduation at the Oberlin Kindergarten School
last month - She starts next month for her work. so our children are
scattered far and wide - With loving regards to your family -

Ever sincerely Yours - L. M. B. Thom -

Marsovan, July 27, 1903

Accompanying Estimates

148

Rec'd DEC 22 1903

Ans'd DEC 22 1903

Mardin. Nov. 12. 1903

Rev. J. L. Barton, D. D.
Cong. House. 14 Beacon St.
Boston. Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton:-

I have your circular letter of Oct. 12 — and have tried in a lame way to meet your request for something in regard to the Medical Work in my care. You have a right to expect a big report from a twenty nine years sojourner — and from others who have been in the work so long. I am sure you will something rich — but this is all that seems to me at present. I have no picture to furnish you at present but may send some later. You of course are at liberty to use all or part or not any of what I send you — just as you like —

We have news of Miss Graf as having reached Harput that she and Dr. Atkinson will start for Mardin next Monday. We shall be glad to see both of them. the old & the new —

We had a close call from Cholera — four or five cases in city. but it spread no further and we praise the Lord for it.

I enclose a list of the contributors to the Hospt fund. it may interest you even at this late day — With loving regards to all

Yours truly D. M. B. Shaw

Mr. H. B. Brown's
Pendleton Nov. 10, 1903

Rec'd FEB 17 1904

Mardin Jan. 11. 1904

Rev. James L. Barton. D.D.,

Ans'd MAR 1 1904

Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

I herewith send you my report for the year. As you will see the year has been rather a light one - both in work and in finances but we can do no more than we have time - Interesting stories might be written of many of the patients that have come to us for treatment during the year - that is they might be interesting to the medical mind. While not as much to the lay. We had a larger number of women in the hospital this year 19 of the 62 were women - showing a little improvement in the breaking down of the objections to going to a place! The whole number of days spent in the hospital being 1076 - an avg for each patient of 17.20/62 -

There was a paper sent me from the course - I suppose it was general - calling for an inventory of everything at the end of each Dec - is that not asking for a good deal from people who are as busy as we are - I don't see why you there need to add your burdens more than is necessary - I should say one other year - or once in three years, ought to satisfy you - But

then if it is impossible. I supposed we can sit up later nights and do it any year. You will see it is four years since I have done it. It was my purpose to have done it this year even before the paper came.

Another thing in the paper I wish to call your attention to. You request surplus of funds at the end of the year to be turned over to the Mission Treas.

You may recall, and if you do not, you may refer to the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held in Mardin some 15 or 16 years ago. When the Mission voted me all my earnings to the running of my hospital. And if I should have a little surplus at the end of the year unexpended. You can easily see it might be needed soon after the next year found. And in as much as my work is no expense to the Board, further than the 1000$ given towards helping build the Hospital. Look at other Medical Stations how much they have cost. You see Dr. Atkinson appeal to the public for large contributions for an electric plant. Let him earn it as I did. I thought it was against the rules of the Board for its Missionaries to beg in that way. But then we old missionaries are nothing but cranks any way, and may not be up to date. You will see there is a small bal. but as told Mr. Dale I could not turn that over as I had permission to keep it from of old!

I am in decided need of an Operating room with some modern improvements in it - in order to keep in striking distance with the times - I now have to use my Operating room for a dressing room - in that case it is impossible to do your work & optics &c - and I have been putting off this needed addition until I could have funds to do it with - and hoping from day to year that my hospital would be recognized as such - and then I would have no trouble in securing the permission for this addition - While as matters stand I dont know what complications might arise should I raise the question - or find it to be a disadvantage in many things, to leave matters as they are - rather than to stir up the dust, even for the purpose of improvement -

Matters seem to move very slowly at Constantinople Bombs being placed on a footing with other notions - notwithstanding the two Warships in Beirut Harbor - and the insult heaped upon our Consul at Alexandretta! What complications would arise to our Govt should they press this matter with a little more vigor? It makes matters unpleasant with us, and the local authorities - refusing to pay the taxes by order of our Ministers - while he sits and takes his ease at the Capitol - Her Govt pays all their dues to the Govt regardless of orders from above - They are a power too, in themselves - Why should they be straining a point with the local powers? just so, and why should we?

We have just closed a profitable week of prayer - morning and evening meetings - no special movement - only an improvement in the general condition of Church and Community. Anything like a revival - such as has visited Windsor - is out of the question - humanly speaking - amongst this people. We had pleasant weather for the week - at its close, we are visited with the heaviest snow storm - extending as far as the eye can reach on the plain - we have had in a long time -

The drums of our ears are becoming sickened by the prolonged straining, listening for the first sound of an appointment of some suitable man & his family for this place - but alas! in vain we strain - no sound comes. If there is no other and no Larkin - he ought to make a good touring Missionary - let Mr. R. retain the school - it is not for the school's good - but then what are we to do? Is there no Man in Am. sufficiently consecrated to give himself to this work? But I have already exceeded my limits - and am intruding on your precious time - So with loving regards to you & yours -

for the New Year -

I am &c -

D. M. B. Thom.

Rev. Geo. Young
Yarmouth

Mardin. Mch. 21/04.

REC'D APR 18 1904
ANS'D JUN 25 1904

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.,
14 Beacon St = Boston. Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton:-

About the middle of Feb. I was called by telegraph to Diarbekir by the Wali to look into some matters in need of Medical advice - Mrs. Thom was not quite herself just then - and telegraphed him "if effective boys would do, should be happy to come." He at once replied it would do - So at the expiration of the ten days I was in D. with much misgiving - but with not an idea of what I was called for. I had no sooner got down (in the house of the Bedreas Effs) as I am a great smoker - than he sent the Second Commissioner of Police with his compliments - requesting Sidki Eff. to take pot luck with me. As I was his (the Wali's) guest, the following day being Biram - fast day - he was busy until Noon - but he sent one word - he could see me at 8 o'clock Turkish - So at that hour I found my self in his presence - and a fine man I found him. He had been Aide-de-camp of Caesarea for 6 years - and knew all the missionaries there, even the ladies - had been Kimakam in Merzifon during the stay of the "Marblehead" in that harbor and knew the Commander of the same - showing me a letter he had from him - which he kept as a keepsake - He pronounced the Americans as the greatest people he had ever met - They never lied - and when they promised to do a thing they did it - And as for money - they had no end of it - Millionaires there, even as plenty as were of beasts were here!! He then went on to explain why he had called me - expressing himself for putting me to so much fatigue by saying he could not trust the medical men in D. and as there was some Bulgarian prisoners there whose condition had been complained of - he wished me

to Examine them, and report in English the Condition in which I found them - So the following day in Company with three other Dr. I went to the Poison where they were. Hassan Dooka Khan, Opolle holding 1000 Soldiers - So I went over the place, entering my room & looking them over - to see as to how they were -

Some 252 came to D. the last days of Nov - 33 had died on Crossing Alippo and D. The first night they came to D - 8 died during the next eleven days 24 died - the next month 18 died, the next month 2 died - the last month only one died - that from Small pox - so it was fairly proved that the Cause of the Mortality was the long fatiguing journey - and the treatment during the same. And gave my report on those lines -

Sunday Sorg. he had no time with him and his second June young man - who had not been Alone in Salonica could tell me all about her - We had a pleasant Evening together - Before I came away he paid me 20. £.T. for my getting them - I the same day paid back ten of it in aid of the Pleasure ture - He was exceedingly thankful for the same. and gave me his Photograph - And when I went to bid him good by - he hoped the fatigue I had been to, would result in a life long friendship - I also had the pleasure of meeting the new Wali on his bottom us - I also had the pleasure of meeting the new Wali on his way to Bitlis - when I called on him to bid him good by - He seemed to be a very fine man - as far as I could see - I hope they will find him

So. My time is up and letters must go.

Trusting you & yours are all well

I remain my truly yours

D. M. B. Thom.

D. M. B. Thom
Nardigh
Via Bitlis

D. M. B. Thom, M.D. 151

Rec'd JUL 12 1904

Mardin June 13/04

Ans'd JUL 20 1904

Dear Dr. Barton.

In a recent letter to Miss. -f- in which you report an appropriation of $1.00 for Kindergarten work - you ed the reason of none appropriation the time was to cease there was nothing ked for in the Estimates - I think if you l take the trouble to look them up you ll see that two items for Kindergarten re asked for - viz -

Pianos 720

alma Namasra -

ent for School Room 1000 = 1700 -

hich is about the same as you appro- ated - I make this statement to show fault was not ours -

u will hon heard of Ellis going to Beirut - e leaves New York 21st inst -

Trusting you are all well - The ools close this week. 17 graduates in both ools - Yours truly - D. M. B. Thom

Rec'd AUG 2 1904

Mardin. July 4. 1904.

Ans'd AUG 2 1904

Rev. J. L. Barton. D.D.
Boston. Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton:—

Enclosed please find Estimates for 1905. You will see at a glance that the Total, without Missionaries Salys. is 40% less than last year. We have tightened the cords on every hand — and to grant us any thing less than what we have asked for will simply be pernicious to the work — and should such a thing as an Annual Meeting be a possibility — we should have to vote against it — for lack of funds to attend it —

Trusting the Lord of Missions will fill all treasuries so that there need be no curtailing the coming year —

I hope Nellie found time to call at Boston and that she came in and saw you — We suppose she will be in Naples day after to-morrow —

Miss. Fenenga & Miss. Dale are out on a tour. have been gone for ten days — We look for them to-morrow — It is rather hot for touring — 32½° in my study 3.45 P.M.

With kind regards to all —

D. M. B. Thom

Mardin, Turkey

July 4 - 1904

153
Rec'd SEP 19 1904

Mardin - Aug. 22. 1904.

Ans'd DEC 22 1904

Rev. James L. Barton D.D.
14 Beacon Street Boston —

My dear Dr. Barton:-

I have before me yours of June 27th & July 20th. In the first, you speak of writing to Harpoot about a hospt. in Diarbekir &c. And that they would probably consult us &c. It is not their way usually. But be that as it may — In a letter from you to Mr. Andrus by last post, you again speak of it in offering to Dr. Underwood, saying that he might be the one for there &c. so as not to increase the doctors in the East. F. Mission. There is certainly no need for any more of them. And instead of taking Dr. Underwood away from Erzroom bringing him down to D. and wedging him in between Dr. Atkinson and myself, would seem to me uncalled for. It would be far better to first catch your bird, and then talk about dividing it. You first get permission from the Turkish Govt. to put up a Hospital. Which can't be done in a day. Then build it. If a place can be found suitable. And after that consider who would be the better party to take charge of it &c. Harpoot has insisted about

R. B. -

If it is your purpose to do any thing about a hospital in D. no better opportunity than the present = Under the influence of this Vila something might be done as he is very friendly to Am. and would do all he could in its favor — But should he be removed & a new man - who knew not Joseph - come in his place, the work might be more difficult =

J.

forty years without a Dr. and seemed to get along as well as they do with one - Certainly there was not as many going home in those days diseased sickness &c, as there are now with a Dr. - So that I think it would not be out of place to have Dr Atkinson put in charge - he would always be with us Easy Call of H. And Dr. Nabb there in D. could be made an associate Dr. so that when Dr. A was away - Dr. N. would be present. And then if it was thought best I might be appointed visiting Surgeon. And could give some of my time without interfering with my work here - But all this is a dim mist - yet - Diarbekir will not stand a very large Hospital - it is Koordistan - Koords dont take to Hospitals - as the Armenians do -

As to your July 20th in regard to Kindergarten Estimates - All is well that ends well - and as this ended well - all is well - Yes, the Bliss are all at the Jordan - they seem to be rolling to the full extent - I get out for the Sundays -

You say "The Political situation in Turkey seems to be improving" it is all in the seems - for it is growing worse every day. Had time to give you a page or two of what is going on in these parts - it might make your hair stand! With warm greetings to yours - Yours truly D. M. Cro

154
REC'D MAY 16 1905

Mardin - Turkey-in-Asia -
April. 6/05 -

Rev. J. L. Barton. D.D.
Congregational House. Boston.

REC'D JUN 29 1905

My Dear Dr. Barton: -

I think one or two letters have come to hand from you during the last two or three weeks - as I remember them there was nothing calling for any special answer, so were laid aside -

But I wish to send you my congratulations on the escape of so much of your New home and the valuable things in it - It was certainly a close call - and we praise the Lord for the escape -

In one of your letters - I think it was the one to Mr. Andrews - you express regret at our not being able to hold an Annual Meeting - The only thing that prevents the E. T. M. from holding an Annual Meeting is the lack of funds - to my mind - Missionaries find no trouble in going where, when they please. See Dr. Medzoumd going & coming from Bitlis. Erzeroum - Dr. Norton has just come over all that ground. Mr. McDowell has just passed up from Mosul to Van - Mr. Andrews is now on his way to Oorfa - &c - and if there was a call for it, I should not hesitate to go anywhere in these parts -

But when a station has to take 20. or 30. £ out of its station work to pay Annual Meeting exp. they will think a good while before they vote for it - If there could be an appropriation for Annual

meeting ~~of~~ over and above Station Appropriations. I am sure we could hold Annual meetings every year.

As to the Hospital for Diarbekir - I think it would be a very grave mistake to attempt running one inside the City - And there are no houses in the City already built that could be utilized for such a purpose - neither in arrangement, nor hygienically. It would be simply a waste of money putting it into a house in the City - And to buy ground, and build within the City would be very expensive. Even the Pastor Tomai's house is not anything near what it should be. The place for a Hospital would be outside near Ala Pour - east of the City - A branch Dispensary could be in the City - but all cases requiring Hospital treatment go to the Hospital. And $10.000 should make a very nice beginning - on a small scale - And that is what the beginning should be.

As to the German Dr - I mentioned in a former letter he has now left for Germany. And it is uncertain if he will come back - But should he be there - he is a good Christian Physician - And is (Mrs Thom tells me he is) ~~supposed to be~~ out out by a missionary society - And I am sure he would be a valuable aid in case the Hospital was started up. But I do not wish to weary you - so with my warm salutations to your dear family & Yourself - I remain as ever

Yours truly. D. M. B. Thom.

Tarpahi - Turkey. Apr. 6 - '05.

Rec'd JUN 27 1905

155

Mordue. May. 29/05=

Ans'd JUN 28 1905

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Enclosed find my report for 04.
it is made up figures - as your letter came the other day requesting "brief reports" - and as mine goes forward under that head -
Dr. Browne's letter to Horfool - telling of his motive to remain in the U.S. came on to us to day - To say I am disappointed - tells but little as to how I feel - but I will not transgress upon you with my feelings - Horfool is a happy station to be able to furnish so many able men.
Will you kindly forward the Enclosed line to Mr. Browne. and oblige -

Yours truly.

D. M. Thom

Mardin - Turkey. May 29 - 1905.

Rec'd OCT 16 1905

Mardin. Turkey-in-Asia.
Sept. 18/05.

Ans'd OCT 25 1905

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston. Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton:-

June 29th to the date of your last letter rec'd. and I have failed to answer until the present time. My excuse - nothing special - and no time. Thanks for your commendation of my financial methods in regard to my Medical work. It is a down right mistake to think we are doing missionary work by treating promiscuously for nothing. they think the less of you. and as you say, they take the mad - or not madly - or not - as they please. that which costs nothing - has no value. And you are over run with a crowd that has no more need of a Dr. than the man in the moon. I cannot imagine how any man. doctor or preacher. can think he is doing missionary work by giving his time & med. gratuitously. he must know his clients. and if he does not know them. know those who do know them. there are those who will get the better of us. but they are the minority.

As to the Diarbekir Hospital. You will have the Annual Meeting report. and see the action taken by the meeting in regard to it. But I see no use in taking any action

in the matter so long as you have no money in hand. After you have rec'd the money and notified us to that effect it will be time enough to proceed in looking up a place and making plans - The Wali on whom I hoped to be able to call on for help in the matter has been removed - And the new one who knows what he will be - In that case we will have to trust to luck.

I suppose the Dewey Reunion are now enjoying the motion of the Atlantic waves! And are to leave Constantinople Oct. 9th I dont know as we can get a man to Samasoon in time to meet them or not - Trying to find one - it is not my one that will do.

We are having a period of rest from riot and robbery - It must be four weeks since matters settled down - and all seems quiet -

The Ain'l Meeting party - came home bringing with them sick, more or less of Malaria! Mr. Andrus was quite run down - but they are all picking up again. The schools are opening this week - We are sending helpers to other fields more than we are using our selves! There are three leaving to day - two for Aleppo - one for Alexandretta - And a fourth is going to Beirut for a post course for a year - and so it goes - 3 of these are Girls - the other a boy - Love to you all - Yours truly, D. M. B. Bean.

Mardin-Turkey- Sept. 18-1905.

Rec'd FEB 20 1906

13 Jan. 1906 — 157

Mardin Turkey in Asia.

Ans'd FEB 22 1906

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
14 Beacon Street Boston Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton:-

I dont see any letter of yours lying around to answer - but lest you should have an idle moment! and as the old year has gone - and the new year has come - a word to you might not be out of place -

Two weeks of Jan. gone, and no appropriations in hand so as to be able to shape our ship for 1906. It is hard enough to arrange always after the year has well started. The Women's Boston Board came along this week! the first on hand.

During the summer land rumblings of discontent came from portions of the field - Sert & Kerboran in particular. It was very necessary some one should visit those places. Who was there to do it? Mr. Andrus could not leave - and to send a native alone the results would not be satisfactory. So the Prof. Committee appointed the Doctor of the Mardin Ch. and myself to make a tour in that portion of the field. So on Oct. 31. we left home. going direct to Sert - spending over two weeks there - finding but little to do Medically but plenty to do in the Ch. & Community. for they were all at sixes & sevens - We started out by holding three meetings a day - The men Ch. members in the morning

to be satisfied and content with their condition showed a lack of life in their souls - But we went to work with the aid of the Holy Spirit - we were able to get them into a bitter state - awakened to a sense of their own short comings - reconciliations were made - A family that had been out of for a long time was brought back to love and grace taking the place of war and discontent - In less than a month after the reconciliation had taken place - the Father of the family was suddenly called home - that made a very great impression - for the reconciliation had been hearty and full - the very evening he died he had all his relatives at his house for what was really a love feast. And while they were there he had a bad turn - but seemed to have got over it - they all returning to their homes feeling that he was all right - But very soon another bad turn came on - and he was soon with the majority - They were a very large family - among the great Protestants in Midyat - News came afterward that his death has been the result of great awakening - and that a very large opportunity has been given for the preaching of the word - and sowing of the seed. As people came from all the villages far and near to sympathize with the bereaved. He was known far and wide in the mountain - and had dealings with a great many people - so that his death by the grace of God may result in the spreading of the word to places it has not been before reached -

From there we went to Corbaran - where division and discontent had existed for some time - We had but two days to do it in - but set to work and got them to see the foolishness of their ways - how much they were hindering the progress of the Gospel - and by prayer and persuasion we got them to come to an understanding - and we left them the third day rejoicing that God had counted us worthy to be the means of bringing all these discontented parties into harmony and peace - once more - We returned to Midyat - the pastor spending one night in Arnas. The day after returning to Midyat we started for Mardin, reaching home the following morning for breakfast - just in time to escape a terrible storm! The Lord had been very good to us in all our journey - not a drop of rain had fallen on us - nor had one lifted his finger against us - Notwithstanding before us, and behind us, Paravans were robbed! We were gone six and a half weeks - and during that time my work had become piled up so that I could scarcely see over it - The Head Missionaries, and the old had come - were glad to see them - but poor Mrs. E. is anything but a healthy woman - My Annual account was a month late! Mr. Post no doubt thought bad things of me - but I could not do otherwise - And then the post, that is all out of joint - about two weeks late from the south! such a thing never having been known before - that further delayed my accounts -

the women at noon, and the Young men in the morning. The first week was passed in this way. and considerable progress was made. the second week were general meetings twice a day - and a meeting in the morning in our room - so that before the end of the second week reconciliations had been made by most of those who were at swords points - so that by the time we came away the following week - we felt - the Lord had answered our prayers -

From there we came to Hassan Kofr - We had heard of nothing out of the way there - so looked forward to having a pleasant time during our stay there - But Alas! Satan is terrible - and even here he had got a finger in this pie - We spent Saturday and Sunday here bringing the parties together - and making peace - where discord reigned - Here I found a good deal to do medically -

Monday Nov. 27 we came on to Mideyat - Here weddings were the order of the day - and nothing could be done while they lasted - While the Pastor was trying Greek I was breaking up stones! And finding painters here and there indicating that even here all was not what it should be - The Ch. Council itself was at swords point - and not doing their duty - so they were called for a meeting - to see what could be done among them selves - before attempting anything in the Ch. They were at first very satisfied - "the Ch. was all right - getting along well enough here". I told them that was the worst thing they could have said -

in getting to Stambul. The Cold has been so great in Resul that the river was frozen over. such a thing not having happened before for one hundred and thirty six years! a skin of water falling for ten fathoms!!

After my return home a day or two word came that the Evangelist Rev. Mr. Franson of Chicago, who has been out for three years, was close on my heels, getting to Midyat in the morning, of the day we left. He spent two days there and then came on in that terrible storm, was almost frozen when he got here. Spent five days with us, doing a splendid work, come to having made a beginning in the new life, besides awaking others who had become cold. By God's help he did more for our Ch. & Com. than had ever been done before. Neither week of prayer following on the heels of his work, gave a stinging to what had been done. We closed the week of prayer Saturday, by a sermon in the morning from Eurich, a good quiet Communion in the afternoon, a full day, and a good day. Mr. Andrus leading the young men meeting in the morning which was a success. And so we feel that the Lord has been very good to us, and may more to us than we take. It will require work, prayer, and effort to look after all these young converts.

So much for what has gone before. Now a word about the Diarbekir Hospital. There seems to be considerable feeling among the Foreign Missionaries, and the Native in

in H. and D. at the slow progress that is being made in regard to it — I had a letter from Dr. A. stating that funds were now in hand — I have had no such word from Jan — but on the contrary that funds are not yet in hand. I also had a long letter to Miss. Rush urging the work to be pushed!!! A difficult thing in winter either as to obtaining a situation or getting out material — they seem to think all that is needed is to get at it! Even Miss Rush is considerable of a critic on the matter! Since Miss B. letter came I have heard that the hospital is to be strictly for Xtians!! If that is the case it will be a failure from the start — For should the Mo get the idea that they are to be excluded from it — it will be impossible to do anything. It would be a great mistake to attempt anything of the kind — Moslems as a class are willing to pay those who are able — for such work — and to be excluded would be too much for them — under such conditions neither I nor any American should have any thing to do with it — It would injure our influence with them — Neither could we get permission to engage in such a work — either in building or in opening any building — I may not be correctly informed — and may be all up a tree in the matter — but should be as I have heard — that is the way I feel about it — In reading Miss. B's letter I see she has written fully her views (!) In the appropriations of the 10,000$ for hospital

I did not suppose the Salary of Physician & nurse were included or even thought of. But it seems to me the income of the hospital ought to defray their exp. unless it is to be a free institution which would be a great mistake - that which costs nothing - you know how it is rated.
As to what she says about the Germans, I agree with her - "Now I do not think that any union with the Germans will bring this about" making it a missionary institution - "unless a man of extraordinary religious zeal should come, with a German physician and a German nurse, unless they were of the kind that we have had at Mezrek like Dr. Harle and Sister Christa we could not hope to have strictly religious work there." And that is so. Dr. Haab altho a fine man and called himself a Protestant was anything but fitted to take charge of a truly missionary institution. But Dr. H. is not likely to return - but a Dr. that is now in Oorfa is likely to be sent to D. to take his place. Miss. Chatlock's strokes were fine. In as much as you favor the putting off of Mardin and turning it over to the A. Board, I should very emphatically object to leaving the A. B. C. F. M. I should be willing to devote the remaining years of my life to the running of this hospital - provided it is not to be a free institution nor devoted alone to Tiaus. In any case Mardin is not as greatly in need of me as formerly - and next summer there is expected a young physician to come and

locate here who is to graduate this spring from Johns Hopkins Hospital - so that they will not be without an educated Physician.

The family are talking about its being our year for a vacation, we are of course anxious on account of Baby who is not robust - and that a sea voyage would be the building of her up. But - if it was thought best to turn the hospital over to me - I could put off my vacation for another year - sending Mrs Thom & Baby home the coming summer. They wish to go by way of the Hawaiian Islands so as to see our daughter Minnie. And get the benefit of the longer sea voyage for Baby.

I know I take a good deal of your time - but I trust you will bear with me - as I feel that the Horsfalls are blaming me for the running delay in regard to the hospital - I beg of you therefore to give us instructions as to what we shall do. And an answer to the two questions above viz - Is it to be for institution? Is it to be for Xtians alone?

Mrs. Thom joins me in very warm thanks for the beautiful New Years Card that came to hand a few days ago.

Accept the heartiest greetings for the year from us both - And always believe me

Your Brother Friends
D. M. Thom.

With love to the family.

Franklin - Turkey
Jan. 13th 1906.

Rec'd MAY 2 1906

Mardin - Turkey - in - Asia -
April 5/06.

Rev. J. L. Barton. D.D.
Congregational House. Boston.

Rec'd MAY 2 1906

My dear Dr. Barton:-

I have been looking for a letter from you for some time - in answer to the one I wrote you in regard to the Hospital in Diarbekir - but so far I continue to look. I know you are a very busy man - and have but little time for letter writing - But some things have to receive attention or they go by the board -

Mr. Knapp was in D. during the month of Feb. - and while there Dr. Shepherd of Aintab had a call there - and between the two they found a place for sale out in Alapoor which they thought would be a good site for said Hospital. It was for sale - and could be had for about half its real value - Mr. K. wrote me in regard to it - Then after Dr. S. left an offer was made Mr. K. of some land out on the Harpoot road to the right - as you leave the city half an hour from the gate. The last place Mr. K. section was ideal - and for nothing!? seem to appeal to him as the one spot! Under the circumstances it seemed the only way to settle it was, for Dr. Atkinson and myself to meet in D. look over these places - and decide as to which - if either - so I wrote Dr. A. telling a date when I would meet him in D. I placed it at the time Mr. K. would be back

Dr. Barton. Page 3.

At the start, it would be impossible to get the Hospital ready short of two years or more. In the meantime the people are becoming impatient for the benefits of the will - "The of our people, our money are." And if the work was not gone at in a systematic and business manner - it would cost nearly twice as much. Building in Diarbekir is very expensive at the start. My idea would be to secure a building, rent - in the city - and on your physician - get to work, do what Medical work you could - and at the same time be on the look out for a site - and when that is secured arrange for material - gather it, and get to building when ready. There is the house Dr. Raab bought, and fitted up some what for Medical work might be had as they seem to have no one in hand at present. And our getting in there might be the means of keeping them out. I do not know as the building could be had. But if not that one - some other one. Only I say - get in there and get to work. The funds should be sufficient to allow us to do this. Any way, it seems to me it would be a wise thing to give the people there some idea of the amount that would be available for the Medical work. As they have abnormal ideas of the sum left, placing it at 20,000 T. £. + And if only 2000 T. £. are to be had - you can imagine something as to what some of them would be inclined to remark!

Give us instructions as to what we are to do. And if we

Dr. Barton Page 4

do anything - are funds available? and to what amount?
It would require about 350.$ a year for running up - aside from drugs, & instruments, of course if the Physician was up to the mark of the place - 500.$ would not be too high an estimate for the receipts for the year - that going back into the fund thereby giving it the benefit - if any - of the proceeds -

I think this will suffice for to night - and may be sufficient to give you something to consider - Only let us hear from you at an early day - and with something to go to work on -

Here I might say - Mr. Thom & myself, had decided on account of the press of work, and the weakness of the help to remain at our post another year before seeking for a vacation - And on account of the straitened condition of the Trade of the Country, will permit - allow my colleague to come out of the Medical proceeds this year.

With a great deal of love to you & your family

I am ever your doctor -

Yours very truly
D. M. B. Thom -

Dr Burton Page 2

from his Kordistan tour - and thus how the traifit of his opinion re-
Mercind nothing of Dr. A. and so took no word - for an answer -
and went on to K. at the time appointed viz: March 25. But there
was no doubting but that Dr. A. would be there - Mr. K. & Miss. K.
came out a ways to meet me - and I began to question them about
the news of Dr. A. They had none whatever - That rather upset
me. Yet I would not give up but what he might come yet -
But when night came and no Dr. I struck him a tel
saying I was here - and for him to come on and get there
Saturday night. This was Wed. The answer came Friday 11 A.M.
saying "I knew of your coming but could not get there in the time set."
Why in the name of daylight did he not let me know upon leaving
home - if he could not come? Well, I sat down and had a nice visit
with the friends from Ob. Awaiting a reply to my tel.
The two places are not ideal - and I should not build
in either - the first place is in the village - by the public fountain
two strong objections to my mind, as it would be impossible
to keep clean around you - and there would be too much
of a crowd always at the fountain. The second is too far away -
A place about third way from the City Gate to Alipoor
would be far more ideal - I think could be had. But as Dr.
A. did not come I did not feel equal to going on and
doing any thing -
While there, this thought was forced upon me. And I wrote
it out and sent it on to the post for Dr. A's opinion about it.

Meredin - Turkey.
Apr. 5 - 1906.

Rec'd MAY 23 1906

Hardin May 1st 1906

Ans'd MAY 31 1906

My Dear Dr. Barton:-

I have nothing of James to answer — thinking that the Ireland for Dr. A. might interest Jan requested that "I set him right" with Jan — If I said anything detrimental to him in any of my letters to Jan. I wish to take them all back). Far from I was not in the least to blame for his nonappearance at Diaabiki at the time Dr was there — as his inclosed letters plainly show —

letter to Mr. Andrus for Jan, by last post, shows that the Board has at last appropriated 3000$ for a training! — I hope Jan will approve the suggestion I made to Jan the Board to house the work. I am at once Dr. A. approve of the plan — And I think Jan cannot but see it would be better way —

Why not appropriate his whole sum for the hospital & the work there — would it not be in keeping with terms of his will?

Very sorry to hear Dr. Smith was ailing. trust he is long well again — And also very sorry Mr. Browne has — and his way back to the field again — I dont understand it —

Very truly yours —

D. M. B. Thom

Mardin Turkey May 1 1906

160

Harpoot, Turkey,
April 4, 1906
Rec'd MAY 28 1906

My dear Dr.Thom.

My soul is squeezed. Your letter making an appointment to meet you in Diarbekir never reached me. Why did you not telegraph me as you left Mardin? You did not give me enough time to reach Diarbekir. I did not receive your Telegram until Thursday P.M. It was impossible to start before next morning for I would have had to get my teskerey and arrange some other matters. It was impossible to reach Diarbekir in this weather in two days. If you had telegraphed "I await you" or Come quickly" I would have come at once & reached you Monday noon. As it was I could do nothing but telegraph my inability and have my soul squeezed.

Dr.Barnum tells me that the Diarbekir church will have a jubilee the end of this month or the beginning of May. He intends to go down to attend it. It seems to me an occasion worth attending. If you can come up for it I'll go down with Dr.Barnum.

I think it would be quite a help to have the support of Dr. Barnum & Mr.Andrus. What do you say? Is it a go? I am awfully sorry about the missing of connections this time, but don't see how I can be blamed.

Yours with cordial good will,

H.H. Atkinson M.D.

Harpoot, Turkey.
April 4, 1908

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Yours with cordial good will,

H. O. Dwight

Apr. 4-1908.

161

Harpoot, Turkey.
April 9th, 1906

Rec'd MAY 28 1906

D.M.B.Thom,
Mardin,
Turkey.

My dear Brother:- This post, arriving to day from your way, brings to hand four favors from you. They are dated respectively MARCH 9th, 30th, April 4th & 6th. Enclosed I found in them a note to Mrs Knapp, a note for Mr. Knapp, a note to Harpoot station about Salary & a duplicate copy of your letter to Dr.Barton. KINDLY NOTE that YOUR FAVOR written MARCH 9th reached ME by the SAME POST and was put in MY HAND the SAME INSTANT with the one WRITTEN APRIL 6th. Where that letter has been I have not the slightest idea. But you have been in Turkey much longer than I and can probably guess.

Mr. Knapp very kindly let me read your favor to him, for which I am exceedingly grateful, for in it you give expression to another mistake. You tell him that I telegraphed you "I know you were coming but could not reach you by date set." The telegram written by us & sent rea "I did NOT know of your coming I can not reach you by date set" which refered to Saturday evening. Your telegram from Diarbekir reached me Thursday noon. It came like lightening from a clear sky. I had no toskerey ready nor any thing else. If I had hurried I might have started next morning. A snow, hail & rain storm had begun which I felt certain would last several days. It was impossible to reach you by Saturday night under those conditions. I therefore could do nothing but send the telegram that I tried to send. What else could I do? If you had telegraphed "I await you. Come immediately" I would have started Friday morning & reached you Monday. As it was I had no choice in the matter. Mm soul was squeezed & so was yours but as far as I can see neither you nor I were to blame but the wretched postal & telegraphic service that we have to rely upon.

You quote the people of Diarbekir as saying that my excuse was worse than my sin. I have no further explanations to make. I simply request that when you feel that I have sinned against you or any one else that you will tell ME & not any one else, of that sin that I may repent. Thats all. I assure you that I will take it as a brotherly favor.

Now dear brother this has been a very exasperating experience for you especially. It has been also for me. You wrote your letter of March 30th under very provoking circumstances. You wrote with

Harpoot - Apr. 9-1906.

Dr. Thom

self-control & seemingly in a kindly spirit. I thank you for it. I beg this further favor that you correct the wrong impression given of me both to the friends in Diarbekir & to Dr. Barton.

I have read over your letter to Dr. Barton with care & interest. On the whole I agree with you. I was pleased with your impression of the need of a resident American physician in Diarbekir. I have written all along to you & to Boston that the most important thing for that hospital was the physician in charge. Your plan to begin work in temporary quarters and decide about location equipment etc later I think common sense and I shall so write to Dr Barton. I am exceedingly disappointed that we failed to make connections. If we could have talked things over thoroughly, come definate decisions, written joint letters to Mission & Boston I think we would have succeeded in moving something.

I wrote you last week, asking about meeting at time of Diarbekir Jubilee. It may not be worth while. How about the annual meeting this year? If we have an annual meeting I'll come down & we'll talk it over together. I am just about to start on a trip to Egin, Arabkir etc. Will be gone a little over two weeks.

Thanking you I am

Sincerely yours,

H. H. Atkinson M.D.

Harpoot, Turkey,
March 14th, 1906

Rec'd MAY 28 1906

M.B. Thom M.D.
Mardin,
Turkey.

Dear Doctor:-

Your good favor of March 5th at hand & read with much interest. I grieve to read that there has been a backward move in Mardin. I pray that things may become more encouraging.

Miss Barnum seems to have reached Diarbekir safely and with a good degree of comfort. She has a good opportunity for work there. She will probably return with Mr. Knapp.

Thank you for your suggestions in regard to our own hospital. I think if you knew all of our plans and ideas we would not seem quite such fools as you seem to think us. When we meet I shall be pleased to talk my plans over with you. I am sure your greater experience will be helpful to me. The plan I sent you was only a provisional one and may be entirely changed before we adopt it. I am glad you spoke frankly & in dealing with me I hope you will always do so and accord me the same privilege.

Now in regard to the Diarbekir hospital. I don't think we can do much more by correspondence. I think you & I had better meet in Diarbekir, settle this question of location and talk over other matters in relation to the hospital. Just recently Miss Bush received a letter from Dr Barton in which he says "Whats the use of appropriating any money for the Diarbekir hospital until you do something." Then he writes to you saying in substance 'Your right don't make any more until the money is given.' It looks queer. Now if we come together settle the location question, come to an understanding about other matters. Then it will be up to Dr. Barton to act or say when they will act. Can you and will you set a time to meet me in Diarbekir?

Yours sincerely,

H.H. Atkinson M.D.

Harpoot, Turkey,
March 14th, 1906

Rec'd MAY 28 1906

Harpoot

Dr. Tilman M.D.
Mardin,
Turkey.

Dear Doctor:-

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Yours sincerely,

H.H. Tilman M.D.

REC'D JUN 19 1906

Mardin. May. 18. 06.

ANS'D JUN 20 1906

Rev. J. L. Barton. D.D.
Boston Mass.

My Dear Doctor Barton:-

Mardin is not in a position to vote an increase in Salaries - nor would it vote against an increase. We feel the present an inopportune time for agitating the question - When or how to cut down so much in Native Agency - Education &c - it would hardly be in keeping with "do as you would be done by" to have ours increased and the helpers cut down.

There is no question about the increased expenses - in the living in this land - And as prices increase, we simply have to control - Some one has intimated that Dr. Barton has said "We only give Missionaries 9/10 of their Salaries anyway, that the Society defrays of their tithes." I should hardly think that was the Christ's duty - or according to the "liberty of conscience" granted to all men - We ought to be able to manage our own tithes - for there are none of us but what give the tithes of what we get - And if you keep back that amount from us. we are thus made to pay our tithes twice! 1/10 added would be quite an item to some -

I enclose the letters from the other stations - so that you can see for yourself what each has to say. for or against -

thus leaving the Company to draw their own conclusions as to the necessity - or otherwise -

They the Com. would seem to think our salaries are pretty large now - seeing they have added 25% more to the expense of getting goods here - they were losing us here from 25% plus - and now it makes us over 30% - ! I think we can do better in European markets, and shall be likely to go there more than we have done -

I am very truly yours -
D. W. B. Thom -
Chairman Com. &c

D. W. B. Thom
Turkey - Turkey - May 18-1906.

Rec'd JUN 19 1906

164

Van Turkey Asia
April 16th, 1906

Dear Dr Thom:-

Yours of Mar. 1 2. just to hand. Thanks for your good words about my report.

My time is limited as it is Easter Monday & I have many calls to make besides 25 patients in the hospital to see. We have emptied the hosp'l as much as possible for Easter. Typhus continues but I have found a remedy in Calcium sulphide gr 1/4 every two hours continued after cure is apparent to prevent relapse.

Regarding salaries. Every one of the Van missionaries overdrew heavily last year. We are economizing to the last degree. In our house keeping we have the plainest food usually bread & madzoon (yaghort) or porridge & eggs (at 14 for a piaster during Lent). We have meat at one meal three to five times a week. Dessert once a week on sundays. I have to go calling today without an overcoat because mine is too shabby & the suit I wear I have been wearing for best for eight years & have now almost nothing else. I have sold all my instruments to the medical department & used up every available means to get out of debt & am still about £ 25. in debt. We have had debts every year but one since I came to Van and have worked honestly to avoid

it but prices have steadily increased. The 5% allowed for each child under 7 yrs does not cover the first outfit much less keep them going. If Mrs. Ushers family had not helped her in clothes she would be a good subject for photographic example of the general poverty about them.

Miss McLaren & Miss Norton have both had to draw heavily on private funds. Miss McL. I think to nearly as much again or at least 2/3 as much as her salary. Miss Ely writes that they could not live on their salary that is on the full Bitlis salary. They draw only one salary for the two of them from the Board funds.

I opposed the motion to ask for an increase for this year simply because I knew the Board was in straights but I did not expect to end the year with £43 debt in addition to £20 I had paid from private funds. The cost of living is nearly treble what it was four years ago and wheat is more than treble and is twice the present Erzroom price also higher than in Bitlis. I would be in favor of adding at least a third to salaries & making the percent for children under seven 10% instead of 5%.

When Neville came we tried to put aside a lira a month toward his education for him and half a lira for Dorothea but the last two years have eaten up all we had laid by. I have used up all my private resources and

have only my salary to fall back on for this & next years. I confess to the extravagance of ordering a $40 double barrel shot gun which has never reached me and may not.

By extreme economy we have reduced our debt about half but now must buy the years supply of fuel & wheat which take alone more than £30.

Mr. Yarrows account is in worse shape than ours. They are new in the country and it takes time to learn some of the ways in which it is possible to economize. We have not yet learned as well as our beloved Dr & Mrs. Raynolds who are marvels in that line as perhaps you know.

Give my best regards to Miss Steele. Neville & Dorothea often speak of her and ask when she is coming.

Some friends are helping us to get a motor boat for the lake so hereafter the trip to & from Bitlis will be a very simple affair made in a day or night. Come & visit us.

We were planning to send Mr Yarrow & Miss Norton to Mardin to Mission meeting but have no word of any such meeting. I should think a vote should at least be sent around to rescind the vote at last meeting. Ten votes affirmative to either proposition. But we expected a meeting about May 20 if Miss Steele Captain Lyrell is to be married soon

and expects an appointment in England
we shall not be likely to see him again
With best greetings to all your circ

Yours faithfully

C. R. Lesher

165

Harpoot Apr-11 1906

Dear Dr Thom:—

At last the station has
me together + discussed the
alary question. Dr Barnum
ell expressed the sentiment of
e meeting when he said,
I would rather suffer a re-
uction of my salary than
sk for an increase."

Certainly it is a very inop-
portune time to be agitating
e salary question when the
Board is in the present narrow
rcumstances.

Please ask Mr Andrus to tell me
we have got to collect another set
church statistics in May, or will
Cong Year Book figures of Jan. be
ough for this year?

Respectfully, E. F. Cary.

and expects an appointment in England
we shall not be likely to see him again
With best greetings to all your circ

Yours faithfully

C. R. Cushing

Harpsth apr-11 1886

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church statistics in May, or will
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ough't for this year?

Respectfully, E. F. Carey.

Copy - E. F. Carey to Dr. Thom

Harpoot

Rec'd JUN 19 1906

Erzroom Turkey March 14th. 1906.

ar Dr. Thom:-

At our meeting in Van last year the Erzroom delegation presented the need of a higher basis for the salary allowance for the missionaries of the E.T.M. The financial committee thought it inexpedient at that time to ask for a raise in the amount notwithstanding the fact that they agreed that the sum granted was not sufficient to live on. We had to accept that decision, but thought it time to begin an agitation for the meeting this year. It is a living question with us if not a question of living here in Erzroom. So on the last day of the Van meeting a committee was appointed of which you are a member and chairman as your name was given first.

I am not sure whether you know of the fact that you are chairman. But as such to you we report some developements in the question In our letters to Boston last December where in we had to explaint the state of our accounts and the reason for their overdrawn condition we tried to show how living in this part of the country if not thro' out the entire land had increased in expensiveness and our allowances had remained the same. To this Dr. Barton replies in his favor of January 26th. 1906 as follows:-

> " I am convinced that salaries must be increased. The cost of living has increased during the last 12 or 15 years without doubt, while the salaries remain the same. without question, next year the estimates should be made out upon a higher schedule in accordance with the cost of living.

Mr Wiggin writes in his favor of January 30th. in a similar strain as the above and says:-

> "I regret the debts which exist in the station but recognize the force of the reasons therefore I do not see how you can avoid asking for an increase in the salaries for 1907."

Dr. Crawford writes from Trebizond:-

> "The unit of Trebizond is 200 lt. and 25 lt. for house rent It is not enough for here. Am glad to hear that your whole station or Mission is considering the salary question. Your salaries and ours too were arranged in old en times when living was cheaper. Your sugar ,coffee, wood flour and some other things must cost more in Erz) room than in Trebizond. Unmarried ladies receive a salary of 88Lt. of which three goes for rent."

rebizond's report is quite pertinent to this subject as most of he things found here and which we use except wood and fruit come

hro' Trebizond as a port along with our boxes from America and England. To the cost there of these commodities has to be added he freight in general about one piaster per oke besides other xpenses of merchants here. Our wood comes some five to six days nd seems to be getting dearer each year. Our fruit is brought

in from two to five days and seldom gets below two piasters an oke Native officals say that Erzroom is far dearer for them than Trebizond or almost any other place out-side of the capital. If Trebizond feels that 225 liras is too little for there what would they they think of 177 liras for Erzroom with twelve liras less for Bitlis and Van. I know that Kampoot and Mardin have the lesser figure but know not the places as well as Van and Bitlis. These two places have the added freight from Erzroom to their cities respectively on all commodities coming into the country via Trebizond. Erzroom market supplies us with many things which ten years ago we brought from America and England but even now we can bring them cheaper than obtaining them in our market.

Weas a station feel like taking Dr. Barton's advice supported as it is by Mr. Wiggin and in our estimates for allowances this year writing it on the basis similar to that of Trebizond. We wish * to get the opinion of the other stations of the Mission and to know what they will do. Perhaps it would be well for each station thro' its member on this committee to write Dr. Thom regarding the data pertaining to the question in their respective station.

Mr. Peet writes that if the circumstances such as are stated in Dr. Barton's letter are so viz, that the cost of living has increased while the allowance has remain the same, the financial of stringency of the Board ought not to hinder a thorough discussion of the matter and the presentation of our needs.

Fraternally yours

Robt. S. Stapleton

* Unmarried ladies as per hand book one half the allowance of a family.

Copy from [illegible]

Dr. Shone

Erzroom

Rec'd JUN 25 1906.

Mardin. May - 28/06.

Ans'd JUL 2. 1906

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Congregational House.
Boston. Mass.

My dear Doctor:-

Enclosed Mr. G. H. Fowle's correspondence with Jourdell and Mr. Biggam in regard to filling daughter home from the hotel of Turkey. Came to-day - and was the cause of considerable comment to us - that I could suggest Mr. Andrus finding a suitable party to make arrangements for her return - when, her husband by marriage, with whom she has been living for the last four years, goes out - on the ground - it would not look well for me to be turning over such work to Mr. Andrus. Your suggesting this as going to Erzroom. Bitlain - Marash or Adana. As I know the country - and know how far each of these places are from Mardin - and how much time it would take for anyone sent here to either of these places - It might

Easily occur to you the impracticability of undertaking any such journey. If he is in such a hurry - as he claims to be - let him come & get her! But - that is neither here nor there. Mr. Thom with your permission will go with her leaving here some time in July - going the Northern way on account of the heat. What place we was - you - divising me of all responsibility - and loading it on to Mr. Andrews.

And this should not have written only that a letter was going any way -

Yours truly
S. M. Thom

S. M. Thom
Andrews - Stanley - May 28 - 1906.

Guardian Station

Dr. B. Thorne

Rec'd JUL 30 1906
AUG 1 1906

168

Quarterly Letter No. 2. April — June - 1906.

There will be something of a sameness between this and the last letter, coming as it does from the same family. Although we may differ in many respects, we cannot help having a sameness in many things - so do not blame us aghast if you have heard the same thing before -

At the beginning of the quarter the writer was in Diarbekir. but it was only a few days old when he returned to the shelter of his home. Had been back only three or four days when events proved I had not returned any too soon - for on the eighth of April at 2.30 A.M. a son and heir was born to the house of Emrich. Notwithstanding he had preceded his schedule time about one month - he made the home run in good shape crossing the line with whoop. He received a warm welcome and the parents hearty congratulations - On June third he was duly consecrated to the Lord in Baptism by the Rev. A. N. Andrus -

Guardian Station
Dr. B. Thorne - April - June - 1906

Circle - Being the closing months of the school year, an extra burden has been borne by almost all the members of it - But for all that they have stood the strain in a wonderful manner. The writer had to topple over for a few days during the last days of school - not that the school had any thing to do with him, or he with them - Only happening at that time. but am again on my legs - All praise the Lord for all His mercies, for they are new every morning - and fresh every hour of the day.

Visitors. A few of whom have passed this way during the quarter. On the 16th of April Miss. Graf. Miss Drew, & Miss Steele left for Siseibin to see

next day. taking Dr. and Mrs. Griffith with him for road companions They the lt. soon off on a short leave for rest and eye treatment.

There continues a restless unsatisfying atmosphere in regard to all matters political. The great curse of this people is their absolute ignorance in regard to the outside world. And so they proceed to imagine anything and every thing their untrained minds are capable of conjuring. And so it is bandied from mouth to mouth until its original form has ceased to exist. So that the one who started it a few days previous no longer recognizes it! Politics

The Ramadan are at last on the road to the great Great? The City drew a long breath of relief when it said Good bye to the last one! The shops had all been closed. all trade at a stand still, pedestrians in the most frequented parts of the streets. by the Police Khana. or any where. were set upon by the brave sons of the desert. And any thing they had of any value. watches. shoes. coats. or what ever they could detach from their persons. was carried off. Women had their gold snatched from their heads & necks. And so it went until their backs were turned upon the City. When again the shops were opened, and the people began to move about with freedom once more.

Nisibin. Rocher Isaac reports his congregation as being in a good condition spiritually. and that love and peace reigns within. While without they have foes. and all is not so lovely. but they are sowing the seed day by day, and trust that the spirit will yet give life to much of it. The school he does not yet dare (?) to open fearing trouble The

Writers. Preacher Tomassian - says. I hope the work is prospering. Altho there is not that life visible I long to see. On account of the poor health of my wife, I am unable to do the house to house work I formerly did. The congregations are good - Prec & low entire in the Ch. The S. S. is very much improved - having divided up the School into Classes - there is more interest - and a better attendance - In conclusion he says I am very happy in my work - but need your prayers for more of the Holy Spirit in my own heart -

The Teacher Thamara - reports the day schools as growing in numbers month by month. But there is not that zeal among the Parents for an education for their children for long to see -

Teach. Preacher Esa Hanna - During the first two months of the quarter the attendance was better, as was also the S. S. and the attendance on the preaching - We have only six protestant house - and two of these. Because of their poverty have had to leave - Only 16 of them have promised towards the 300 required - Their condition is that of extreme poverty.

During the month of May - one week after the Marash storm. Their Village and region was visited by a devastating storm of rain and hail - Killing sheep and cattle by the hundreds - destroying their vine yards and crops of all kinds almost totally.

The Bible Reader - reports a like condition - for all that, she finds her work growing and breaking more interesting -

the work there and to meet Consul and Mrs Shipley - our English Consul in Diarbekir - On the 18th we were delightfully surprised to have Mr. E. W. Riggs and Miss Wilson of the Harput Station come in upon us - The 19th the Shipleys, and our own number came - The 20 Mr. R. and Miss W. left us. With them it was just a hand shake, how do you do, and a go - but delightful all the same - On the 22d - we were shocked and all the pleasure taken from us by a telegram announcing the destruction of San Francisco by Earthquake, fire, and water. On the 5th of May a Mr Hodgson dropped in on Mr. Andrus, almost unannounced - One of these passing comets, you see but for a moment and are gone - leaving us the third day rejoicing over the existence of Mission Stations here and there - as they made excellent resting places for the Sabbath!

On the afternoon of the 8th of May - the most devastating storm of rain and hail visited these parts, that the oldest living had ever seen or heard of. The destruction of property - in the shape of vine yards - groves - grist mills, live stock, sheep & cattle, and a few human lives - cannot be at all accurately estimated, but in round numbers it has been put at more than $1.760.000. It was certainly a sight one cannot soon forget -

June 6th A. Mr. Young - a German, out in the interest of his Soul, put up his tent by the Hospital, spent a day to see the City, and to get Good Statistics. He too went his way - a very fine man, giving us much pleasure in meeting him - On the 9th Dr. and Mrs. Griffith of the A. M. S. in Mosul came - fine people, worth our while to meet them, and to get acquainted with our neighbours - On the 11th Consul Shipley again came in upon us to Diarbekir - Having the

5

at. Preacher Emmanuel. Reports the Ch. there as enjoying a season of prayer and spiritual prosperity. They had daily meetings for a period of ten days. resulting in much good. Home & house meetings were then held two or three times a week. The Syrian Community took up the same kind of work. trying to get like results. A convert from the Ch. visited Erdil and Jess. encouraging the brethren there. The C.S. and the Y.M. Society are not making the progress they should do.

Preacher Jach. Has a school of 30 pupils. has 4 classes, and 17 lessons a day, The school is prospering.

Preacher Hahamrah. Has from 65 to 85 scholars ranging fr grade 1. to grade 9. He enjoys his school very much. but finds the parents indifferent as to the regularity of their children and in that way makes it hard for him.

Preacher Gadar. Girls School has fr. 46-50 students. are making good progress, and enjoying their work.

Terbul. Preacher Silvan. Reports good work for the last quarter. Pastor Varban fr Diarbekir was in the Village for about 20 days. and they had meetings almost daily. resulting in awakening many who were asleep. Proving that what is needed anywhere and everywhere is work.

ial. Preacher Hanna. Reports progress. where as two years ago there was only about 40 in the Congregation. While now there are 80. Family Prayers in every home. Faithful attendance to all meetings.

There were married into this village from our orphan girls - all good Christians bringing with them a power for good. And the Teacher appreciates this very much - and finds them a great help to him, & he wants to go and do likewise.

Teacher Zorma - reports the social side of the community as being improved over what it was - but progress in spiritual things - or a deeper interest in the school - it is not to be found. Kalatu

Teacher Amsah - reports his school as doing well - the scholars as being interested - but during the last part of the quarter there were fewer in attendance - owing to the children being taken out to work. Kerbo

The schools closed on the 28th of June with a bang and a land hugga. The boys department graduated one. And the girls five. The visitors to the examinations, and closing exercises were in excess of former years. But all this, and much more will appear in their annual reports - so I refrain. Station

Prescriptions written during the quarter were 157. Major operations 10 - One day five stone cases - Another from operations on Tubercular cases - Number of dressings. (Surgical) 923 - Visits in the city have been fewer than usual - as I had no horse for a time - and did not respond to all calls - Medical

In behalf of the station -

Respectfully submitted -

D. M. B. Thom

Mardin. June 30/06 -

Rec'd AUG 18 1906
Ans'd SEP 4 1906

y Dear Doctor:- Estimate for 1907 July 16 1906

Mrs. Thos. Boby and
liss Stule start for America after
o days viz - 19th inst - It has been put off
r one reason after another until the
ties part of the season is upon them -
t - they are now all in their trunks.
d had been for some days - and
uld have taken to the road today -
ut having bargained for Animals that
r absent - they did not get here as
on as they expected - Coming in
s morning! So in order to make the
ting plans for Sunday at all drain -
. We have put off starting until Thursday.
t will give us diversion & Coffa for
r Sundays - They hoping to stick an
fortunate time all around - The Govt
s been impressing animals - so that
rooms are scarce - and Merchants
e also anxious to get their goods
so that they have run the Kerra up
an abnormal price. making it - expensive
ing out of the country. The R. R. has now

washed Alippo. so that will help a little.
Our heat is well up, 8 & 9 P.M. in my study.
The members of the Circle are moving good words. The E. & the A. have gone the Dr. will go out as soon as the Thomas get away. I'm going as far as Diorbikir with the party. Miss. Duncan goes also. to visit the Villages near D. and bring back some girls with her. so I understand.
This is the dull season, not much going on so that there is but little to write about.
I have your letter telling of the appropriation of $10.+ 20,000 dollars for the Medical work in D. also the appointment of a Dr. for the place. Coming now as he will be, from the latest and most improved hospitals. he will be in a fit condition to look after the whole thing. building. fitting & and all. so we. I at least. an old fogey would not be suitable to go a head and do any thing. which would without doubt have to be undone. so my idea is to let the whole

thing not until he comes on to the ground.

Dr Atkinson has been in Dorchester. I have not had a word from him. & I do not know what he has done —

Your letter to Mrs. Thom in answer to her quarterly — came by last post. She thanks you for the same — but may see you before she has time to write again.

With kind regards to you all. I remain Yours truly —

D. M. B. Thom.

Mordiu. July. 16/06.

To
Rev. J. L. Burton D.D.
Boston Mass —

D. M. B. Thoms

Mardin - Turkey - July 16 - 1906.

Rec'd AUG 25 1906
170

Mardin July 31. 1906.

Ans'd SEP 4 1906

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston Mass.

My dear Doctor:-

I am afraid there are several letters rec'd from you recently that have not been acknowledged in as much as they pertained to matters not in need of answers. The last two at hand June 20 & July 2d.

Mrs Shaw is now on her way to the plateau. left here the 19th I went with her as far as Diarbekir and saw her started from there I was gone from days. To day they sight to be at Berijik - when they will have three and a half days journey left to Aleppo. The Rail Road has reached Aleppo but it will not be opened officially until the 31st of Aug - so I fear they will have to continue their journey two days further by waggon - and then take the cars. Turkey is moving? backward I mean. Only last night, two bros neighbours were brought in dead from the Gordius. It is not a month ago since the Mutasarrif ordered these same people to make peace with their enemies! and this is the result of the peace!!

I take it to be your opinion that nothing more is to be done in regard to the Diarbekir Hospital - until Dr Ward is on the ground? I had expressed myself

in regard to a Dile, in the same way - for I think he ought to have a say in the matter - I am glad you have been able to find a man so well qualified for the place - for he will need every bit of his talents to get along with this people. Let him become an Expert in Eye surgery - and all diseases of the Rectum and Anus - a great many of the rectal troubles that will come to him he will find them only in the brain!) but they are the hardest ones to treat - He needs to be thoroughly qualified to treat all manner of women's diseases And a Past Master in all ailments of the heart - for there is no place in Turkey where so much heart trouble exists as in Diarbekir. And Dr. Shepard says 9. out of 10. are afflicted with the all prevailing specific disease - he says "they are all tarred with the same brush." rather a sweeping statement - but really there is a great deal of it - and in Diarbekir in particular - And again the last and most awful of all - the "White Plague," taking its victims by the thousands - Tubercular surgery is becoming the most common of all - But I did not mean to let my pen run off this way - there are others better qualified to give advice than I am - Your letter to Mr. Andrus, announcing the death of Dr. Smith, came to my hands yesterday. We were not prepared for this sad news - May a sympathizing Jesus comfort all your hearts is our prayer - Miss F. and I are alone on the

Salaries - no worries at Van

Bitlis Dr. Shepard - Diarbekir - the great prevalence of heart disease

Rec'd SEP 24 1906

171

Mardin. Aug. 27. 1906.

Rev. J. L. Barton. D.D.,

Ans'd OCT 5 1906

14 Beacon Street Boston:-

Dear Doctor:-

Your letter of 20. ult. came duly to hand. I think the question you ask in it I have already answered. But will repeat in case I have not. viz. As to Dr Ward's coming into the Country and learning Turkish so as to take his Examination - or, to study French on his way in & take it. You understand this is simply my own Opinion. If he has to study French to take his Examination. to my mind that time and money is all wasted. While if he comes in land - and studies the language - it is the language of the people he is to work with. he is not only learning the language. but he is learning the People. and does not have to spend another year getting the language after he has got his French. which would be of scarcely none to him in D. And while he is getting the language he could be taking his ordination in overseeing the construction of the Hospital. which without the presence of an American should not be thought of going ahead with. But let Dr. Atkinson speak. he has been through the Mill. and is better able to give an

Opinion than I am—
Now that Dr. Wardes engaged I suppose it is All—in—

Your letter to Mr. Andrus which came by last post, which I had a chance to read this morning—The Missionary—or Station pine—and we all know to take it—Why dont you deal with us as the Prophet Nathan did with David "Thou art the man." it would be more to the point—

Mrs Thom—Baby & Miss Stile are still in Brindisi they will go to Naples and from there to Boston on the S.S. "Canopic" White Star line—The date of her sailing I dont know—Of course you can learn there when she is due—It must be towards the last of Sept or first of Oct. She had a very trying journey to Brindisi—I will enclose you her letter giving an account of it—You will kindly send it on to G. F. Stile. Fort Edwards. Washington Co. Wis. in that you will see something of what she had to endure—

Miss. A. and my self are the only ones on the premises the others bring at the Garden. Our heat is come at the end this year—had from 82° F several mornings now—it will go up! Kind regards to all—

Yours Very truly. D. M. B. Thom.

Meadville, Pa. Aug. 27, 1906.

(copy) Mardin, Turkey Oct. 8 '06

Dear Dr. Barton.

Your favor of Aug 1st is at hand - requesting me to write something about the medical work

There is no doubt from a humanitarian standpoint that it is a great blessing in the countries where missionary work is carried on as those countries, as a class, are still in the dark ages - and have not the medical skill that comes with the missionary physician The physician has a rich opportunity of sowing the seed among all classes People will listen to words in the waiting room of a dispensary that could not be spoken with freedom elsewhere They listen because

they are looking beyond the mere to some personal benefit, and who knows what particular seed dropped may take root, spring up, and bring forth fruit.

The presence of a doctor in a station gives great comfort and peace to the members of the station. It removes from the parents much worry and anxiety during illness among their children or of themselves.

I well remember the terrible days and nights my dear wife had to endure one winter that we were spending in Mosul. I was the patient and got pretty low down in the scales and the nearest American doctor was fifteen days distant. Now we debated about sending for him. When I was in my right mind I advised waiting and

so she did but the strain was very great. How often others in like circumstances have suffered. And so for the sake of the missionaries and their families it pays to have a medical man connected with the station. And some physicians have the power of winning the hearts of the people of all ranks and stations, and can do a marvellous amount of work in seed-sowing. There is not the slightest doubt but that such a physician does pave the way for his co-laborers to enter into places that they could hardly have ventured to enter without such influence. Of course in this respect countries and peoples

differ. I have yet to hear of a Moslem in Turkey contributing to the erection of a Christian hospital, or for its maintenance while in China, Japan and India the opposite is true.

I have never yet received a gift in money as a thank-offering for service rendered. A bargain has to be made for every little operation. There is no such thing as set fees for any special kind of Medical or surgical work

To be sure the people as a whole are poor and it is hard for them to give - but no matter how rich they are the same bargaining must be gone through with.

I think the medical work should run itself, and not draw on the funds of the Board for anything except for the physician's salary

Let his work build up his plant and when built, run it. Other branches of the work are far more entitled to the funds collected at home. Educational and Evangelistic work should be the first and foremost to receive the gifts of the churches.

A foreign missionary physician may follow more closely than any one the footsteps of our Master. It was His way of spreading the Gospel tidings. First making His way into the hearts of the people by ministering to their physical needs. He gained a hearing and they listened gladly. A missionary physician may be, but is not always, the best kind of a missionary

Yours in the Work

J. M. B. Thom M. D.

J. M. B. Thom - M. D.

Mardin - Turkey. Oct. 8 - 1906.

Medical

Rec'd JUN 18 1907

Mardin. May 23 1907.

Rev Dr. Bell -

Asst Sect A. B. C. F. M.

14 Beacon Street. Boston. Mass.

Dear Dr. Bell -

Enclosed please find Estimates Mardin Station for 1908 - trusting they will reach you in due time - and that the P. C. will see their way clear to grant them in full - and for once clear the heart of the Missionaries and workers of this field.

Yours sincerely -

D. M. B. Shaw

Pres. Mardin Station -

N. B.

I shall start for the plains about the last week of June D. V.

S.

Mardin. Turkey. May 23-1907.

Raynolds

Apr. 9-

Plan of co-ope
Am. & German
for Armenians

Rec'D SEP 17 1907

ANS'D SEP 18 1907

My Dear Dr. Barton.

There is little use in visiting Jan
at the Rooms to try to get any satisfactor
attention at this Jan — I know you are so
much over head and tons in work — that
so long an absence — and so short a time
remaining before Annual meeting — But it
so dearly possible a written line could be
read and pondered a little during your
idle hours in the Rooms or your home —
In that hope I make bold to address you
in hope.

You may not be ignorant of the
Stetson bequest — for $6000.00 to
build a Girls High School — Did
you say — "Jan-hon-ee" do you
call it — ? 30 feet square — with
a stone Column nearly two feet
through — in the center of the room —
cutting off a bay or more of the

students from the Teachers
where ever placed — The present
room admits of no growth
the school — The quarters
every respect are inadequate
how we have worked with the
so long — simply shows
a patient people knowing that
is. — But — you know that
time, patience & long for a
virtue. While the present
room is sorely needed for
a Missionary House — If
are not provided for the
they will have to be forth com
for a new house ——
The sum asked for is small

Compare us with Horpool-
Drzroom- Van- ~~Samarson~~ Adarsson
Rinbole and many other places
and you will see we have not
been of the asking kind for the
enlargement of our premises - so
we are hoping, praying that
our appeal will be speedily
heard and granted - so that
while I am in the states I
can be looking after many
needed things - which can
be done far better by one
on the ground than by corres-
pondence. You will see Doctor
know what to do with this -
but whatever you do - do not throw

it – in the waste basket –

Yours very truly

D. M. B. Hyam

25 Cameron Street –

Dorchester –

Sept. 16/07 –

D. M. B. Hyam

Dorchester, Mass. Sept. 16-1907.

Dear Dr. Barton:— Jan. 4-1908

Yours of yesterday just now received (No. 2.) and with the same mail these two letters for the Emrichs— I think you will be interested in hearing what these two new, wide awake Missionaries are doing— They write me more freely than they would you— and you will get from these more of the inner workings— Of course they are for you alone— What is this new idea about Missionaries reporting their Medical bills to the A.B.C.F.M.? The Missionaries have always had their Med's free from me— Sometimes like this case for instance they might give something to the Med. dept. in form of a gift— not at all as payment—

And in as much as the Medical Dept is self supporting - and costs the Board nothing - I see no reason - if the Med Dept can stand it - why the Board cannot - and if a few dollars worth of Med. will keep her in such health and spirits - I consider it money well invested - But I should like to know what started - this Med order (!) and whereunto it leads - all the same -

You see they are enthusiastic over their industrial branch of work - to be sure the old sugar are not in favor of changes - and Madam Dahia had such full authority during Mr. Andrus days that it is hard for him and his wife to take a back seat

I am off in the course of an hour or two - so once more good bye -

Yours truly
J. D. M. Brown.

N.B. In the Outlook
for Jan. 4. pp 51-2 — Have
you seen it? who did it?
~~and how much can one~~
~~lose stock it?~~ D. G.

Please return when
read to 20 Cameron St
Dorchester

20 Cameron Street
Dorchester Mass.
Jan. 4. 1908

D. M. B. Thom

Dorchester Mass. Jan. 14-1

Rec'd JAN 21 1908

Jan. 20 - 1908

My Dear Dr. Barton -

In compliance with your request - I now at last written you about five hundred words - in addition to what I have all ready written you - which I think will be all you will care for.

You will find so many others who are so much better qualified to give you an account of this work - I need not appear in print at all - All the same, I thank you for the kind interest you always manifest in me -

I do not find Surgery here so much in advance of Boston. I am glad I was able to give so much time to it there - I shall not prolong my stay here - I took in Washington yesterday - it was a charming day - and I enjoyed it all very much -

I hope Mrs. D. is better. and that the "babies" are well. and you very not over worked -

D. M. B. Thom

Dorchester Mass. Jan. 20-1908.

I am, as always
Very truly Yours -
D. M. B. Thom -

To James L. Barton, D.D.
14 Beacon Street -
Boston. Mass -

MAR 2 1908

D. W. B. Thom

Owatonna. Minn.
Feb. 28. 08.

Rev. J. P. Barton, D.D.
14 Beacon St. - Boston -

My Dear Dr. -

It is now two mos. since I left Boston - and in all that time I have not had a word from your pen! And as they say in the East "May your silence be an indication of good". I hope. You and yours are well - Remember me lovingly to them all -

I have no doubt you are as busy as ever - and have but little time for anything except the regular grind - I hope at least things are encouraging - It seems to be anything but that in Mardin - Inclose you some letters for your own reading - You will think it is asking a good deal of you to read all these, but you will get more of the inwardness of things than by

letters addressed to you in particular
Do take your time - and read them -
Especially Dr. Atkinson - and if you
have time, give me some idea as to what
it means - Is Dr. Wards movements -
~~in~~ language, & practice, under the Com-
mand of Harpool = Atkinson? And what
is this, about Epworth - to me, it is a mysti
letter, but still they are acting from orders
from Boston - that is another thing! Bosto
can hardly be up to date, in regard to mat
things out there, I would like to know just
how much backing he had from the
"Hub" for this letter. You cannot help bu
see that such a letter would grind some
And what about Mr. Pool's new methods.
How can a station do its work on such
checks as those? and doled out in such
a manner? Merchants dont want 5. 10. or
even 20. pound checks - scarcely ever less
than 100 pound checks - and often twice that
And then for him to confine us much by

2

P.S.B. To those points — I cannot or — In Mardin we must lay in funds enough for six mos — along about this time — my year — after a month, you cannot get money at any price — until fall again — so you see it is not a system that we can work by at all. Mr. Andrus will find him very simply unable to do the financial work at all —

And again, we do the financial work for the Western portion of the Persian mission — two or three hundred pounds a year! What can we do with them? Again we do several hundreds with Beirut — a year — what are we to do with them? The Mardin station has a Cr. of 6 or 8 hundred pounds with Mr. Dart — all the time — I see no reason in tightening the screws in this way — If you are such dishonest — unfaithful stewards — drop us — & put in others — but — don't choke off the work in that way. Because one or two stations may have made a mistake — are we all to suffer? let there be justice in these things — Now, when

Institution — I do — I presume I shall
have to take up the bra — again — I
not take it, if it is to be handicap
that way — You read carefully Dr H
Dr. Rudrum says about the strokes
I had a very pleasant tour this
visiting. New York — Philadelphia. Baltimor
Washington — Chicago — Racine — where I got *100.
for my S.S. from two ladies — Milwaukee —
Madison — the coldest place this side of the
North Pole — Pastor, Ch. People, I would rathe
not have the name of being supported by the
Ch. I would rather have a Ch. that could
throb in some sympathy with the work
engaged in — They may give the amount of m
all right — and Dr Updike is smart enough
but ah me! Money, and smartness, is not
only thing needed in our work. I spoke i
Racine to the Presbyterians — and there Pastor and
were kindness itself — and so full of sympathy
the work — I was to have spoken in La Porte a
ago last Wed. Evg — but the storm prevented

P.S. Working on time - I spoke here Lord's Day and this week again Sunday morning - I now been held here with open arms by old and young - and they propose to vote me for what I am worth - Which you know is not much -

Now so much for the out side - now for my family - Last Sunday I had news from my wife - saying that while she was down town the 18th she had a nervous shock benumbing her right side so much that she was unable to walk for several days - I know it is imposing a great tax on you - but if it were possible for Jan to run out and see just how she is - tell me the facts in the case - I should be so thankful - I know she gives me the brightest side - and may keep back some things - I am so anxious all the time I cannot take any comfort in anything - Her address of course is 20 Cameron Street - Dorchester - Mass - Take a Dorchester Ave. Car - which will take Jan within a block of the house. A letter just

at hand from her 1. P. M. Friday - is
in a cheerful mood - but contains some
that do not cheer me -

A line from Miss. Fruzzo's bro. in
land wis - tells me "Miss. F. has asked
her Vacation to take place the coming summ
so as to be near her father in his last days
What next -? We can afford to lose any
else, better than her - It is hard - but I
these things ought to be taken into consideration
we give ourselves to this work) - And our bac
should be turned upon them all. Even fa
and Mother - There are others to look after
but in this way - he must have Agnes - And
Miss Graf feels that her duty is with
father - we might - as well shut shop
All is not rosy - Good bye

dear bro - May the Lord
lead us on - through sunshine, and
thru storm -

Yours very truly
D. M. B. Thom

When read, send the enclosed letters to 20 Cameron St - Pocahontas - Iro. Thom

Rec'd MAR 18 1908

178

Owatonna Minnesota
Mch. 16/08.

My Dear Mr. Bell—

I am surprised that any one should forget my full name it is so simple—only D. M. B. T.! no matter your good letter reached me all right—and I want to thank you very much for your trouble—and kindness in going out there—I thank you for the cheerful report you gave of Mrs Thom—

I can't say that I am enjoying my rest (?) very much—there are too many conflicting rights on me—My family

are scattered so far and wide.
I am not always at ease in re-
gard to them. My daughter that
was in Hawaii is now back in the
States — is now stationed at Cook
College, Cookville, Mos — so she
is a little nearer than you — I
shall have to go there, and see her.
What news have you from
Van? Why the telegram "We
are all safe".

Again thanking you, I remain
Sincerely yours
D. M. Thom.

D. W. B. Stone

Owatonna-Minn. Mar. 16-190

Rec'd APR 23 1908

29

San Francisco. Cal.
4/18/08

My Dear Dr. Barton:—

Your favor of recent date reached me in my wanderings — and I was glad to hear from you — but you did not say a word as to how you were — did not have time (?) no wonder.

In reply to your question — I had done no writing to the shipping department — but cannot answer for my pa — It has been our purpose to return — I am ignorant of the purpose of the Court — If they have use for us there — I think we are ready and willing to go — and the Station has kindly accorded his approval before we came away to that effect —

And as to the outfit we will supply what if the Court sees fit to allow it —

With warmest regards to Mrs. B. and the Sons & Daughters —

I am ever D M B H

Dr. B Thom

San Francisco Call Apr. 18-1908.

Rec'd MAY 8 1908

Rev. D. R. McThom 180

Parkville Mo —
May 6/08.

Mr. E. T. Bell —
Boston, Mass —

My Dear Mr. Bell —

Thanks for yours of Ap. 28th — one of later date — announcing our reappointment by the Com'n — for our work in Mardin, with the appropriation $325.00 for a mil — for all of which God bless hearty thanks —

You missed it, not locating in Eugene — it is a beautiful place, and a beautiful country round it — as for the people I can say nothing about them! my people there are all Methodists — pretty good cool people!! We have engaged state rooms — on the Lake Champlain & C. P. line, for July 15th, from Montreal — join us and go along — Yours truly,

D. M. McThom

Rec'd JUN 18 1908

(18)

June 16/08

W. R. D. Rooms.
Chicago. Ill.

My Dear Dr. Boolon:

I am here in Miss Wingate's room. and we are discussing the question of a nurse for Mordie. Any new work with them is out of the question! Now there is a Mrs. Johnson a trained nurse here whom they think is under appointment and if so, where? Could she be sent to Mordie? I understand Jan are off for Edinburg Saturday — and I hope to reach Boolon Saturday morning. Cannot I see Jan for a moment? I will come right to the rooms — Yours truly. D. M. B. Thom.

Rec'd SEP 25 1908

E. G. FREYER,
Manager.

In reply refer to No.

(Teleg. Address:—Freyer, American, Beirut).

182.

AMERICAN PRESS,

[Of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.]

Founded at Malta, 1822, and at Beirut, 1834.

BEIRUT, SYRIA.

Sept. 3/08.

Rev. J. L. Barton D. D.
14 Beacon St. Boston Mass.

My dear Doctor.

You will see by the heading we are at last on Turkish soil! but not the old Turkey but a fair new Turkey not yet soiled! wonderful! wonderful! I hope it may continue. It has been so radical that many have their doubts in regard to its durability but we enjoy it while it lasts. We never be the old Turkey it was. We reached here Sunday the 8 of Aug. Early in the morning and hope to remain here till the first of Oct when we shall take up the third and last part of our journey. It will be the hardest and most difficult part of our journey but that too I am sure will be at last over come. We had a delightful journey thus far. Could not have asked for better. Mrs Thom improved right along and enjoyed the journey. Only was unable to bear the fatigue

of being on her feet for any length of time — was much handicapped in the matter of sight-seeing on that account — It was a great disappointment to both of us, as we had laid our plans for crossing Continent and taking in the sights — Mrs Thom never been that way — not even to Cuxhaven! And can imagine how much of a disappointment it was to her to be obliged to give it up — So we took the direct route to this place from London, ma Port Said — While in London we hoped day by day, that by accident we might see you! But the pleasure was not ours — We met the Miles and had a nice time with them — They spoke in high terms of you — I hope you had a restful, & profitable trip, and on your return to the Rooms you found everything as you could wish —

Kindly remember me to Dr. Dalton — tell him that I do not forget her — Also my regards to Dr. Bell — tell him the money for Mrs. Deroy's house must be forthcoming! And that there must be no sharp games opening in regard to the new School (?) for boys — before the girls school is provided for! You, my dear Dr will bear this in mind —

with love to you and family in which Mrs Thom joins — Yours truly — D. M. Thom.

Rec'd OCT 17 1908

E. G. FREYER,
Manager.

In reply refer to No.

AMERICAN PRESS,
(Of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.)
Founded at Malta, 1822, and at Beirut, 1834.
BEIRUT, SYRIA.

(Teleg. Address:—Freyer, American, Beirut).

Sept: 29/08 —

Dr J. L. Barton.
14 Beacon St: Boston

My Dear Dr:

London does not bring all the blessings a country needs.— Turkey has her liberty but has her blessings that accompany liberty— Now like other poor countries we have our strikes! and all that comes with such things—

We had arranged to start to day on our inland journey— but low and behold! Yesterday the R. R. between here and Aleppo was tied up! some our goods on the road— and us with some them here! It is better we should be here, than half way between here and Aleppo— but it is a big disappointment to us— We hope the tie up will not be long— but who knows — We are well and anxious to be going— Yours very truly

D. M. B. Thom

Dr. W. B. Thom

Beirut - Syria Sept. 29-1908.

Sept. 30. The strike is off. So we hope to get off tomorrow morning. D. G.

Rec'd NOV 21 1908

Mardin - Turkey - in - Asia -
Oct - 27 - 1908 -

Rev. J. L. Barton D. D.
14 Beacon Street -
Boston Mass. U. S. A.

My Dear Dr. Barton: -

You see by the heading that we are home at last. Yes - and how glad we are to be here - and how glad the people are to have us back - You should have been here to have seen - for no pen picture can portray it - I do not mean the Protestant Community - for I think they were the least pleased - but all others - Xtians and Moslems - seemed to vie with each other to see which could express the greatest joy at our return -

Fifteen miles out, my assistant the first to meet us - from there on, every little while a group would swell our ever growing party - so that by the time we reached the mission premises hundreds surrounded us - It brought tears to see such an exhibition - and made us forget all our weary journey - and rejoice that God had given us life & health to return once more to our work. Pray pray that we may be worthy of all these loving greetings - For three days my study has scarcely had a breathing spell for the continual going & coming - bidding us welcome - so many of them saying "we were not worthy of this blessing. thank God

for permitting us once more to see your face" — &c &c.
But enough — this will suffice to let you know, we are safely home again — reaching here Wed. Afternoon (21) after being away from the field 15½ mos.! We found the members of the Station all well — hard at work — Miss. Graf — is away at Midgat — so we have not seen her yet — I of course can say but little in regard to matters here — and may as the less I say the better — We now did all think alike — and things have been done in my absence — that I now could have approved of — Only hurry up and appropriate the funds the new building that has gone up — without authorization!! $1150.00 or more — This has been done some what ala Harpoot —! Altho I understand they are up about its being done without permission! —

With loving regards to your family — to Mr. Bell — Dr. Dalton &c —

I am my dear Doctor
Yours very truly
D. M. B. Thom

Dr. Franklin Ewing
Cor. 25-1908.

D.T.B.

Monday — P.M. 9/26/08 —
Your good letter of recent date — at hand this morning — Many, many thanks — no time for an answer — tomorrow to Biroun!! and the letters must go —
D.T.

Rec'd FEB 19 1909

Mardin. Turkey-in-Asia-
Jan. 19th 1909.

Dr. James L. Barton. D. D.
14 Beacon St. Boston Mass. U.S.A.

My Dear Doctor:-

Yours of Dec. 2d. also of the 9th came to hand by the same mail. I am always glad to see your signature if it is not signed by you!

First- let me speak of ourselves- and then of your letters- The winter has been altogether unprecedented- in its premature- and in its severity- more snow has fallen already- than we scarcely saw here the whole winter- as a consequence there has been and is a good deal of influenza and pulmonic troubles- Mr. Andrus had to close his door to the public for a week- Mrs. Fenenga was in bed for two days- Miss. Gry. has not been well- the teachers in the Girls school have been in bed more or less- I myself am not up to par- and so it goes- I have been obliged to live a strenuous life ever since my return- doing more work in the same length of time than I have ever done before- Times have changed- even in Turkey- it may yet be a land for God's people to live in! It is still in the throes of birth. but is making progress- The common people can scarcely discern the changes- but nevertheless they are real & in many cases emphatic-

Dr. Q. Thom
Mardin- Turkey. Jan. 19-1909.

For instance, before the change, no one was safe outside of the City half a mile — where as now, a person can go alone in any direction and in perfect safety — The Aghas in Jebel Tur were the last to yield — but now they too have gone on to Diarbekr — what that will amount to remains to be seen — at least at no previous time have they been brought together in a body as at this time — And they can never resume their former power even should they be permitted to return to their homes — Equality and brotherhood is a pretty big bill for most of the Moslems to swallow — and yet they are bound to knuckle down a good many times — These Hamadia of our Plain, where as here to fore they were simply lords of the plain — are now abject slaves — Those whom they lorded over in their palmy days — they come now and kiss their hands and feet — and beg to be allowed to pay up all arrears, and to reinstate them in their previous possessions. Is not that a change? Any way it is for the moment — and the people enjoy it while it lasts —

There has been an unpleasant affair in Mosul, ten days after — resulting in the killing of quite a number — and the wounding of many more — it was the result of a feud of long standing between Kirkooklus & Mosulis — the quarrel began among soldiers that had been drinking on their last day — from words, to blows, blows to guns, guns to the death — Kirkooklus joining with the Mosul soldiers — raising the black flag! went in to the death — the fight lasting for about three days — we are — Mosul is still calling for soldiers — as they are afraid Kirkook will

Dr. Barlow.
2

will come for wrongs! There is some rivalry going on here—
Let this suffice for this time—
For your letter of Dec. 2nd? You ask for particulars of the "house that went up without authority" You cannot be ignorant of what house I refer to— The request came before you for funds to put it up with while I was still in Am. and I talked with you about it. But the answer was emphatic that there was no funds for such expenditures— and it was generally concluded that it was unnecessary— and no action was taken— further than to ask permission— But now that Mr. Andrews went to work and put up a wing on the West side of the Dairy house costing $1200.00! putting the station in debt that amount or more— Now what is to be done about it? the house is built, the station is in debt— and we are straitened financially— The station has voted the Trust into my hands again— and I am very reluctant to take it under the present circumstances— and under Mr. Pirie's present methods of dealing with the stations. they are unjust— private funds sent to private individuals are swamped in the general vortex— and the individuals have to whistle for it! Our station will take action in regard to this matter before long— it may be this and it may not!

with other duties I failed to get this into this weeks post. it will only be another week! I give 4½ hours a week in the schools - so that with all combined my time is pretty well filled -

As to your letter of the 9th are you not rather discriminating? Why should I be the only one you should pick out to pay my nurses exp. out here and back? How many, and who, under the Am. Board have done that? Just cause I wished to get the matter started I make a proposition to help. You turn around and try to load me down with the whole thing? If the matter should be carried out as you suggest - I doubt if that the Am. Board need to have to do with it! You are too generous Dr! If the Am. Board will pay for my home going and back. I am willing that amount should be applied towards the outgoing of a nurse - but as to her salary here - I think the Board had better become responsible for it - Did you not think you had found a victim for that much in Mr. Miller? Why deprive him of the privilege - and me the pleasure of getting that much out of him!? And as for her home going - that I could make no promises -

I have got to enlarge my quarters. I must have a sitting room - and that will take all my spare change. I am very much in need of a nurse, but I cannot become responsible for more than I have stated -

Yours truly D. M. B. Thom

Rec'd MAR 6 1909

186

Mardin. Turkey-in-Asia.
Feb. 4/09.

Rev. J. L. Barton. D.D.
14 Beacon St. Boston. Mass.

My Dear Dr.

With no letter to answer but a question to ask - I take your precious time for a moment. Our post from the south is late this week, thus giving one a little extra time - for my time for letter writing is limited - indeed - Yesterday I was in the Hospital from morning until 2 P.M. with some six or six operations - aside from a large clinic & miscellaneous sick - & my operations I am ably assisted by Mrs. Emrich who has become an expert with the Chloroform - But to my question -

Miss Graf - is fully nearly played out - in order to save her to the work she will this coming summer need a vacation - either a trip to Switzerland - or to the home land. Will the P. C. authorize this trip. and what part of it -? I am making this request at this early date so that we may not be left in the lurch in regard to expenses - as so many of our accounts are 6 days - and not allowed by Mr. Peet - because the Home Office has not authorized them -

Returned in 1903

Miss Graf needs furlough

With other duties I failed to get this into this week's post — it will only be another week! I give 4½ hours a week in the schools — so that with all combined my time is pretty well filled —

As to your letter of the 9th are you not rather dis-criminating? Why should I be the only one you should pick out to pay my nurses exp. out here and back? How many, and who, under the Am. Board, have done that? Just to help. You turn around and try to load me down with the cause I evoked to get the matter started. I make a proposition the whole thing? If the matter should be carried out as you suggest — I don't see what the Am. Board need to have to do with it! You are too generous Dr! If the Am. Board will pay for my home going and back. I am willing that debt should be applied towards the outgoing of a nurse — but as to her duty here. I think the Board had better assume responsible for it — Did you not think you had found a victim for that much in Mr. Miles? Why deprive him of the privilege — and me the pleasure of getting that much out of him!? And as for her home going — I could make no promises —

I have got to enlarge my quarters. I must have a waiting room — and that will take all my spare change — I am very much in need of a nurse, but I cannot assume responsibility for more than I have stated —

Yours truly D. M. B. Thom

Rec'd MAR 6 1909

186

Mardin. Turkey-in-Asia-
Feb. 4/09.

Rev. J. L. Barton. D.D.
14 Beacon St. Boston. Mass.

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With no letter to answer but a question to ask - I take your precious time for a moment - Our post from the south is late this week, thus giving one a little extra time - for my time for letter writing is limited - in-deed - Yesterday I was in the Hospital from morning until 2 P.M. with some six or eight operations - aside from a large clinic of miscellaneous sick - I my operations I am ably assisted by Mrs. Emrich who has become an expert with the Chloroform - But to my question -

Miss Graf is really nearly played out - in order to save her to the work she will this coming summer need a vacation - either a trip to Switzerland - or to her home land. Will the B. C. authorize this trip. and what part of it - ? I am making this request at this early date so that we may not be left in the lurch in regard to expenses - as so many of our accounts are to day - and not allowed by Mr. Peet - because the Home Office has not authorized them -

Returned in 1903

(3)

Miss Graf needs furlough

Dr Barlow.
#2

Miss. Fenenga will leave us for home as soon as her School closes — say June 20th and they could travel together as far as Switzerland — two can always travel cheaper than one — and the opportunity to my mind is a favorable one — they can take care of each other — and will have an opportunity to become acquainted (?) with each other — for they really have not time to do so here — later, I have another proposition to make, but this will be enough for this time — Trusting Your Conc. will give it Your very earliest attention — and let us know Your conclusion — that we may be able to act accordingly —

Influenza has had the most of us in its grip during the last five or six weeks — and we are all the worse for its visit — We are having an unusually hard winter — almost Canadian snow — our wood piles are all skeletons already! and Feb. has but just begun —

There is much sickness — and no little suffering because of the severe winter — but that too will end — as well as we —

With very kind regards to your family —

I am my dear Dr

Yours very truly —

D. Wm. B. Thomson

It is her request — that her father — know morning of this — Dr.

Mardin Turkey. Feb. 4-1909.

a?

187

Mardin. March 31-1909—

RECEIVED
C. H. PATTON
MAY 6 1909
Ans. only ✓

Rev. C. H. Patton, D.D.

14 Deacon St. Boston, Mass—

My Dear Dr. Patton:

I know you have not forgotten me—nor my needs—but are so overloaded with work—friends out of sight—are often out of mind—True it is not so long ago—since I disappeared from view—and yet—the impression I made at home was so slight, that it would not take long to obliterate me from Memory—

You will therefore pardon me if I attempt to throw my figure on the retina of your memories eye—Mardin you no doubt have heard of—there have been some people here who have left their mark, and their memory is still fresh—Dr. Williams—Dr. Dewey of blessed memory—Dr. Coles—and men who are still on the ground—like Mr. Andrus, of forty years toil and labor—still fresh and fighting, and Mr. Church still young and pressing forward—to gain the prize—You, I am sure must have heard of the place and of some of these men—when I tell you that I have been here now for third four years—it may dawn upon you that such a person did have a place in some of the dark corners of your Memory—And that my work has been physical healing lines. And that I some times do a fairly good days work, writing 75 or

now R/ making nine or ten calls in the City - dressing
fifteen to twenty surgical cases - for a days work -
we dont try to blow our own horn - nor does any
one else for us - Yes, to my apothecary and my dry - Drugs
Operating days - when Mrs Durick very ably assists us - for
which I am profoundly thankful - But all this does not fill
the bill - the one you promised to fill - or at least do your
best to help fill - viz - a nurse - And now I desire to come
forward and intimate to you my good friend that I dont
think I care for a nurse - any more - but I do want
a fully qualified lady doctor to come out and assist
me - Her hands would be full from the day that she set foot in
Marion - And think what an assistance she would be to me -
and a blessing to the women of the place - In Kalamazoo Mich.
there is a young lady doctor - whose mind is on the Foreign
field - Her name is Dr. C. Dorson - If you would take
the trouble to put yourself in touch with her - I think an
understanding could be come to - She might need to take some
post work - in special lines - and be ready to come out
when Mrs. Ferunga returns - Dream over it please -
and give us the out come of your dream -
In the mean time allow me to remain -

Very truly yours.

D. M. B. Thomas

Sale of America!

R. B.

H. E. Miles, Chairman, Racine-Sattley Co. Racine, Wis.

Says. "I told Dr. Barton I would be glad to help support a nurse (Dr) in Mardin, but I do not believe I offered $500.00 in one payment, I am just that hard up that for some months $10.00, not to say $50.00 has looked like a big sum, I hope matters will get better soon as the panic gets farther away."

And in closing his letter he says - "--- we will expect the nurse now or soon and that I will do satisfactorily in that direction".

So there is encouragement in this direction. Keep on pressing the button —

D. T.

Rec'd MAY 10 1909
AMERICAN MISSION,
MARDIN, TURKEY IN ASIA.

April 10 – 1909

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.

14 Beacon Street – Boston. Mass.

My Dear Dr. Barton:–

Your very kind favor of Mch. 6. came to hand by last post – I have just mailed a letter to Dr. Patton, which you will no doubt see – giving him my changed views in regard to a nurse – I have decided that a fully qualified lady doctor would fill the bill far more satisfactorily – and be of such a help to the women of the country – the benefits cannot be estimated – and as I have intimated in my letter to Dr. P. there is a lady in Malamagos which which we think can be secured – I would much prefer her to a nurse – and that will remove the objections of the Woman's Board – about sending out nurses – they have sent out lady doctors – now let them send me this one – if they do I will admit that they desire to help and that they are in sympathy with me in my work – otherwise I shall question it very much – as to Mr. Miles – I fear his heart – and desires were larger than his purse – I quoted to Dr. P. what he had just written us – so I dont think it would do any good to write

him on the subject — Mrs. Thum is the one that corresponds with him — and she will bring it in in due time — he will I am sure do what he can — The work has simply overwhelmed me since I came back — until the present week — the last week of the Lenten season — when the Xians are all so busy getting ready for the feast. They have no time for medical treatment. The coming week may have a different shading —

I dont know why you dont understand that my going and coming was entirely at my own will & at my own expense — I mean of course because I have written in regard to it — & you too have spoken to it — But the mountain of matters have to look after — no wonder you forget some of them — Mr. Briggs evidently has forgotten me also — as there was an item of $27.21 which I expended on wife and daughter, and the same allowed for them at the rooms — and he has given it no attention — The sum expended by me going and coming was $564.28 — I am willing that this should be used in the finding out of a Dr. of the Civil Service to pay my exp. — and I am quite confident the Dr would have no trouble in taking in her own Sally. but I would not care to have her come out under different arrangements from others connected with the Board — my income last month was over $[illegible] but it is not always that — I know she would have enough to do so soon as she comes — I think this will do on this subject — So will close with best wishes. Yours truly. D. M. B. Thum.

Rec'd JUL 6 1909

Sw 11

Mardin June 6/09.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.,
14 Beacon Street.
Boston Mass.

My dear Doctor Barton:-

I now to day your good letter of May 11. I thank you for the same - and must ask your indulgence in the matter of sending my letter in regard to Dr. Larson to Dr. Patton - I got the impression when at home - that he was the person to do that kind of work viz - to find and corral candidates -! Got that in my mind - so sent my letter to him - I see the force of your statement - and will act accordingly in the future - You say. "The woman's Board will not authorize the sending out of a nurse". Well, as I said in my letter to Dr. Patton I do not wish a nurse any more - so that is put one side - They now send out lady doctors - and I suppose are ready to send more where found - now let them get at it and send me a doctor Larson - The $364.00 is at their command towards her outfit and expense in coming out. And I am sure that she will be able to earn her salary from the start - and I am willing to let it go towards her salary - so far as it will - even to the full salary - if it comes in - Only I should not want

Transfer Dr. Larson
Inquiries financial conditions.

her out out under any other conditions, than all such are out out - viz - To be a regular appointee - ordered by the W. B. and to be responsible for anything in the line of funds that might be lacking - I promising to allow the above sum - or as much as she may earn - or as much pure as needed to pay her Saly - for month to month, and in case of her return to the States the W. B. to be responsible for that - Has any one done more than this? if so let me know who he is -

Mrs Dr Dawson is a dear friend of Miss Partridge - and she will aid in securing her - when home, bring her with her when she returns - She Dr. D, if you get her - will have to do some Dest work - especially in obstetrics, and Gynecology - and if she could get in some Eye work - it would be well -

As to taking an examination in Turkey - that of course would be necessary - but under the new regime there should be no trouble about that -

I thank the Board for kindly allowing me my E/S - for my home going - and am glad to pay these funds to use in this new departure - I am sure you will do all you can to secure this lady - and allow her to be out here - I have heard they want her for China, but I think I have the first claim -

Dr. Barlow B.

The horrible wave of murder and plunder did not extend as far as this — altho there was an ample desire on the part of many to participate in such a fast time!! If the ball could only be set a rolling — the powder was laid — all it needed was the match! Friday ~~was~~ April 30 — was a day of fear and trembling for this City — and in many other Cities — and Villages also — for about awhile we were on the brink of an out break all the time — But because our Commander in Wyngan was true blue — and gave warning to all in authority — "that Peace must be kept — otherwise they would forfeit their own lives" that was all that saved us — from a repetition of Adana — You have it all in the papers — and more too — so I can give you nothing new —

We have heard that ~~Mr Clemens~~ had been appointed Ambassador to Turkey — we all rejoiced over that — but we do not see confirmation of it — nor hear that he has come —

I think this will suffice for this time —

The schools close this week — Miss. Feiruga starts for home tomorrow — Miss Griswold goes to Beirut — that region for a vacation — she is very much run down — Our Katharine will go to visit her sister Nellie during the summer — so that we shall be quite a reduced Station —

With warm regards —

Ever yours truly —

D. M. B. Thom

Mardin - June 6 1909

RECEIVED
C. H. PATTON
SEP 10 1909
Ans. 4.13.14

FOR YOUR INFORMATION
PLEASE RETURN. C. H. P.

Mardin, Turkey-in-Asia.
Aug. 16, 1909.

Rev. C. H. Patton, D.D.
14 Deacon Street,
Boston, Mass. U.S.A.

My dear Doctor Patton:—

I have yours of July 2d — before me — and first of all allow me in my feeble way to express to you my congratulations on the consummation of the great and arduous task of the Joint Campaign — Your having reached the figure set for us of $300.000 — And I understand the ball continues to grow, may it not stop until $500.000 has been set down as the result of the Campaign — And yet all this prompts a question. Viz. How much did all this cost?

But, let us come back to the original question. A doctor — no more for Mardin — We have lost Dr. Larson — I regret it exceedingly — but there must be some one else who will be willing to take the place — If we only could get the right picture before them — and say the right word to them — It is much my own fault — while I was home I had not become fully converted to the doctor —

I was still laboring with the idea of a Nurse - but since my return - I am fully satisfied that the Doctor is what I want - a Nurse would not fill the bill - In as much as your women's Boards are sending out lady Doctors to every other Clime - what is there about me, & my work that I should be taboo'd? When I was at the Rooms - ladies, gentlemen & all, expressed themselves as sympathizing with me and my work - but if it takes no more material form than mere expression of lips - it will be a long time before I can be in a position to express my warm thanks - It will be 25 years this coming Nov - that I first took up my work here - I have not been able to do as much with my pen as many in the same line of work have done - Consequently I have not been so much before the public - but if they will compare with me the miles of travel - the number of patients seen - the operations performed - I don't think I would have to take a back seat - But being in the heart of Asiatic Turkey - where but few out siders ever come - I have been hidden - Jonah like - from the eyes of the world - so that when we would try to come to the light - they do not recognize us - and we are set - down

until a more convenient season. I say this not because I feel hurt — but only because I see lady doctors going out to other fields — and my claims are not heard —

How for the financial part of it — do the fields to whom these lady doctors all go become responsible for their outfits, traveling exps. and salaries & backing their fields? If so, of course I should be put in the same category — but if not — why should the W. B. M. or the A. B. C. F. M. insist on my doing it —?

I am satisfied that a lady doctor would more than earn her own salary — from the day she sets her foot in Harden — And I should be perfectly willing she should be paid from that income — But as to her outfit — her traveling exp. — why on me? And her exp. home again? I have — or rather — am willing to place $500.00 of Mrd. funds — towards exp. of that kind — more than that I cannot do — And if there is no one at home who will become responsible for such an one's salary — exp. &c — over and above what I can do — I shall have to continue the remaining years of my life alone — as I have done the years gone by — the years that remain will be few, compared to those gone by — Dow —

will do what we can. so long as life shall last — If the Board or Boards should see their way clear to send me such an assistant as I wish — I shall be thankful — and if not I shall try to be content —

I should hope if one were found — that she would be one having had a full course in Obstetrics, and Gynecology — and that she has had some practice — either hospital, or private, not too young — I might enumerate many needed accomplishments — but these will suffice — She of course will have to take her examination for the right to practice in this land — as she comes through Constantinople —

With my kind regards —

I remain very truly yours —

— D. M. B. Thom —

SEP 10 1909

Mardin
Aug. 16/09.

James L. Barton. D.D.
14 Beacon Street —
Boston Mass —

My Dear Dr. Barton:—

(Dr. Dodson whom I had hoped to secure as my assistant in my medical work — has turned her attention to a more difficult field — and a more heroic work — than she could have had in Mardin — As much as I regret the loss of her — I cannot but congratulate the Arabian Mission at securing her — she having passed from our hands —

(Now what? I am still of the opinion that I need, and prefer a lady doctor to take up the work here — to having a nurse — As you know the status of the Moslem women here — You can understand what a boon it would be to them as well as the Christian women — to have a qualified lady physician to look after that branch of the work — My 20 years here has in a measure broken down the sex barrier — but they have to be in a terrible plight — to even yet allow my presence — So my still urgent plea for a lady assistant. I have written Dr. Patton at length on the subject — in answer to a recent letter, ~~on the subject~~ — Now please dont turn me down as an unworthy applicant — but give me your

physician

whole hearted support = (and push the matter so that she could come out with Miss. Fenuga when she returns — Should one come, dont forget to send her in via Constantinople to be examined there — for permission to practice in the Empire —)

You have our congratulations on the $300.000 — and we hope it may reach the $500.000 mark

Our Summer has been a burning one — the hottest I have seen these thirty five years — In proportion to the rise in the thermometer — everything else has risen correspondingly — All foods go away up out of sight — of the prices you were accustomed to — Nothing, not even melons can be had at reasonable prices — But I see living at home — in all dry stuff lines has gone up from 50 % to 200 or more % — So it seems to be a disease not alone confined to this Country. — We have good reports from Miss — Gray — She is enjoying her sojourn in Jerusalem very much, and Katharine is enjoying luxury in the Lebanon. We shall look for their back during the first half of Oct,

We suppose Miss Fenuga must be very near to her journeys end by this time

With warm regards to your very family —

Remain Yours truly

D. H. B. Shaw

Mardin - Turkey - Aug. 16-1909.

Rec'd NOV 18 1909

Mardin. Turkey-in-Asia —
Oct. 21/09.

Rev. James L. Barton. D.D.,
Cong'l House. 14 Beacon Street. Boston —

My Dear Dr. Barton —

Yours of 2 Sept. duly at hand —
Nothing in it — to cheer, comfort, or encourage —

Yours truly —

D. W. B. Shaw

L. W. S. Shown

Mardin-Turkey- Oct. 21-1909.

Rec'd FEB 5 1910

Mardin. Dec. 29/09.

Rev. J. L. Barton. D.D.
Boston. Mass. U.S.A.

My dear Dr Barton:-

Another year of Medical work came to a close Oct. 30. To go over all our work done, and the manner of doing - would be repeating many former reports. so I am confining my self with simply the financial report - and the report - for this year will not be a criterion for other years. As my Druggist during my absence in Am. did quite a business in the Dispensary. and the returns from that are included in this report - as well as some other funds that were in Mr. Andrus hands -

As also on my return from Am. there were number of cases awaiting operations - giving us more work for the past year than can be treated for another year. thereby increasing our receipts -

The number of Major operations may not seem so large: but nothing is put down unless of a serious nature. many operations about the Eyes - Ears - Urethral Calculus - Salatation of the Cervix Uteri - Pelvic Abscess - operations for absence of Vagina. Hydrocele. Circumcision Sequestrums. reducing dislocation of lower jaw &c &c. These not included in my list - Also a number of Obstetrical cases -

In any case we have been kept only busy during the year as the number of Rx written 6438 will indicate - The writing of the Rx is a small part of the work - but when you set to work (& look over, question, examine - and get out of 50 - or more patients at a sitting all that is necessary for the writing of these Rx. it is then one feels a weariness in his upper story - his grey matter becomes mixed!

I have no trained help. I have a very efficient assistant in my druggist, who has had no training but what I have given him myself, aside from him the whole work devolves upon me. After my return a year ago Mr. Emrich turned in and lent a hand — that was simply charming — and gave me hope for great things from her, but! she has been unable to help me in any way since her return from the Garden. And I am still awaiting for help from Him!!

I have been making plans, and preparations to add a much needed wing to my hospital building, to contain an operating, and sundry other rooms in connection with it, all seemingly necessary to facilitate the work. I have been much hampered all these years from the lack of sufficient accommodations — But I was not born in a lucky star, sent out to the field at a time when such things could be had for the asking as they are these days — see Drs Ward, Atkinson, Neve and others in the other missions — What have I that they have not given me? I came in pioneer days — my father was a pioneer before me — and had his toil — and as he began to see the print of his labors — others entered in where he had labored so it will be in this case — I am not complaining — I feel it has been an honor to be a pioneer in the Master's work. Was not Paul a pioneer worker? The little of my work that remains, my prayer is that he may grant me health & strength to labor until the final moment = then to be laid to rest.

It is a pleasure to be able to report the station in very fair health.

With kind regards.

I remain Yours truly. S. M. B. Thom.

Mrs. H. S. Thom

JUL 31 1900
OCT 5 1900

194

Mardin. Turkey
July 2nd 1900

Rev. J. L. Barton D. D.
Boston, Mass.
Dear Dr. Barton.

We are writing to-day to the Barnums at Geneva to see if it cannot be arranged for Nellie to join them on the way here and travel with them as far as Harpoot. It would be a saving of money to the Board and also save Dr. a good many days of hard travel as otherwise he would be obliged to meet Nellie probably at Samsoun. The lower route seems to be guaranteed at Beirut and also at Smyrna - and it would not be surprising if there were still more before Nellie

arrives on these coasts. We think that probably Nellie will have to sail earlier than she had planned in order to do this or, if that cannot be perhaps the Barnums could be induced to prolong their vacation a little.

Dr. suggests that Miss McClaren go on to Harpoot and spend the Winter there and then as Annual Meeting will probably be held next Spring she could go on to Van then without any extra expense. The route to Van from the coast after the experience of the last new-comers to Van is one not to be coveted.

We are having a very trying Spring and Summer so far. Almost constant high

winds. sudden changes of temperature and much consequent sickness. Measles of a severe type has been raging in the city for months and scarcely a house has been passed over. Many children have died. We have kept our own little one free so far and expect to take her to the garden this week. She is teething and looks pale and we dont want her to have the measles this season.

Dr. is kept very busy morning noon and night. The hospital is full and many calls have to be made in the city. It would be a pleasant change for him ~~to go to Harpoot for Nellie~~ not a long tiresome journey like going to the coast. He cannot get out from garden except at the cost of a six mile ride. Often

wish our garden were as near as the one at Harport. Dr. could do easily go back and forth - Now I am obliged to spend many days and nights alone - None of the others are going out this year until August - except Miss Graf who very kindly goes to keep me company -

Dr. wished send love to Mrs. Baker & the children if he were here but he is at the hospital just now -

I enclose a photo of our house and the Andrus house taken from the roof of Mr. Drewey's house - also one of our baby -

Sincerely

H. D. Thom -

Rec'd DEC 5 1904

Mardin Turkey Nov. 7. 1904

Ans'd DEC 22 1904

Rev. J. L. Barton D. D.
Congregational House - Boston, Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton:-

Last week at our weekly station-meeting we brought up the matter of inviting Miss Dewey to Mardin - I am sorry to say that there was a difference of opinion among the members of the station - Miss Graf, Miss Fenenga and myself are strongly in favor of calling her, while Dr. Shaw, Mr Andrus and his wife say there is no work here worthy of her - Let me give you an outline of what she might do if here and leave the matter with the Prudential Committee to decide -

1st " In Mardin itself there are six schools in the different wards that need supervision - Without the supervision of a missionary they fall far below the standard of scholarship that we are striving for - The farthest is a half-hour's ride from us - Miss Graf is now taking time from her kindergarten to visit them and is holding a meeting for the teachers once in two weeks. There is a marked improvement in the schools since she began her work among them -

2nd " There are four villages all of them within two and one half hours of Mardin in which we have schools

and Bible work. A visit from a Missionary at least once a month would greatly promote the work. You have been on the field and know that to leave our workers entirely unvisited is very detrimental. The helpers get discouraged and become unfaithful-

There are ten schools in Mardin and vicinity that need supervision - and with the force we have now - it is impossible to do it - No male missionary has visited these near villages for two years or more -

3rd. There are three Bible-women in Mardin It is necessary for the efficiency of this work that some missionary have the oversight of these women, that she go about with them occasionally and visit the homes in which they teach. that she hold weekly meetings with them for prayer and for instruction in the Bible - At present nothing is being done for them - except to pay them their salary.

4th Touring. All the villages in our field cannot be visited owing to the condition of the country although it is my private-opinion that a woman might go about without being molested - But setting a-side my opinion there are, besides the four villages I mentioned, five, about which there is no question but that they are safe places to go to. They are Kulleth, Midyat, Kutterbul, Karabash and

Kabeya. and there are villages near by Midyat that I have no doubt could be visited. and there is always the hope that in the near future the whole field would be open again for touring.

As this station cannot agree unanimously to call Miss Dewey it will be left for you good people in Boston to decide whether the work I have mentioned is not worthy of a missionary's time. Of course it is primarily for Miss herself to decide whether she wishes to do such work.

I know that usually it is the Secretary's business to write - you about such a matter as this but it was decided at the meeting that each one of us might write - and express his or her individual opinion.

Miss Ferenga and Miss Graf both agree with me in what I have written -

Yours Sincerely
Helen D. Thom.

Ans'd MAR 3 1905

Mardin Turkey Jan. 30. 1905-

Rev. James L. Barton D.D.

Secretary of the A.B.C.F.M.

Congregational House

Boston, Mass- U.S.A.

Ans'd MAR 9 1905

Dear Dr. Barton:-

My letter to you written about two months ago has never been answered but I want to write- and tell you how glad I am that the Station at its last meeting voted unanimously to send an affirmative answer to your question in regard to Mrs. Dewey contained in your last letter - viz. If it would be entirely satisfactory to the Station if the Prudential Committee should decide to appoint Mrs. Dewey & Drain and the W. B. M. I. should decide to support her. Even those of us who have raised objections to appointing them will give them a most hearty welcome. & you seem to feel that the welcome would be lacking - I feel perfectly sure of every one- and I am sure that every one will unite- to try and make them happy here-

Mr. Andrus' objection that a young man and wife should come first does not strike me as a strong reason- Eight of our outstations have been

Mardin, Turkey 1/30/05

visited by our ladies alone or with only natives to accompany them within the past two years. Mrs. Dewey's house is empty We would like to see it occupied again. If a new couple come with them they could not keep house the first year. They could board with Mrs. Dewey. In the fall of next year our term of ten years is up and if we go home Mrs. Dewey could take our house and if anything happens to prevent our return as I think quite likely - for Mardin seems constitutionally averse to having old missionaries return, why then she could keep right on in our house. So there is no need of any one being inconvenienced for room on account of their return.

I do hope that Mr. and Mrs. Emrich will come out this fall but you say nothing yet of their having been appointed -

We are all in our usual health and Dr. and Katharine join me in sending love to you all -

Yours Sincerely
Helen D. Thom -

Mardin. Turkey. Jan. 30. 1905.

Mrs. Helen D. Thom

Mardin Turkey-in-Asia
July 18. 1905.

Rev. E. E. Strong D.D.
Editor Missionary Herald
My dear Dr. Strong:

The same month that saw the American Board making its new departure in holding a conference of eight days with twenty-seven outgoing missionaries beheld also a similar new departure in Mardin the only station under the care of the Board ~~that~~ using the Arabic language. For the first time in its history the missionaries ~~sent out and~~ gathered ~~together~~ all the teachers preachers and Bible readers for a "Summer School" ~~which~~ met in Mardin and ~~like the above mentioned conference~~, lasting eight days.

~~The sessions began at~~ a quarter to eight in the morning and closed at five o'clock in the afternoon with a recess of one hour and a half at noon.

The first thing on the program of each day was a half hour for prayer. The meeting was led ~~each day~~ by a different preacher who gave us a short account of the progress of the work in his village. The next three quarters of an hour was spent by the men under the Rev. A. N. Andrus, ~~and by~~ the women under Mrs. Andrus, in Bible study. The outline of these lessons had been ~~prepared~~ sent weeks beforehand and ~~sent~~ out to the various helpers that they might come prepared and

thus receive the greatest ~~good~~ possible help.

The next hour was spent in a review of Arabic books by two of the Arabic teachers. The American Press in Beirut is constantly putting out new books, many of them translations from the English. These are very helpful to our teachers and preachers or they would be if they knew of them and would buy them. The object of this lesson was to make known to the helpers the contents of the most helpful of these books and create in them a desire to buy some of them for themselves. Since the school closed I have heard of one teacher who spent a quarter of one month's salary for one of these books, and many have declared their intention to buy so soon as they could save the money.

After this came lectures on the Arabic language by the teacher of Arabic grammar and rhetoric in the High School. He dwelt much on the superiority of the Arabic language over all other languages. While admitting some minor defects, such as the absence of all punctuation marks in their printed books, etc., where is there another language that can produce five thousand five hundred synonyms for the word camel? ~~Like the laws of the Medes and Persians the Arabic language "changes not."~~ The language of the Koran written in the early part of the 7th century

is essentially the modern Arabic of to-day. An Arabic dictionary drawn up in the 10th Century is still held in high estimation as an authority.

After this came answers to the "Question Box" by Rev. A. N. Andrus. Some of the questions dropped in by the natives were ~~as follows~~ Viz. "Is it right to sing sacred songs to secular tunes?" "Are all teachers called of God" "Can a teacher who is not called of God do any good?" "Is the Assyrian language an original or a derived language?"

Then came a short exercise in free-hand gymnastics. Some simple movements were taught to the teachers in order that they might introduce them into the village schools on their return. ~~With this the morning exercises closed and after a rest of an hour and a half all met again at half-past one to listen to a talk~~ The afternoon sessions opened with a talk on contemporary history. There is ample scope for such a talk in Mardin a city of 35000 inhabitants that cannot boast of a single newspaper.

Very few of the audience had ever seen a railroad, a ship or a telephone. None had ever ridden in a street-car or an automobile. All would feel more at home on a camel than on a bicycle. It is probable that all had heard of the Russo-Japanese war, but the majority of people in Mardin would be unable to tell whether

Admiral Togo was the name of a battleship or of a constellation. So that three quarters of an hour each day was profitably spent in hearing about the war, and other great events or famous men as well as the causes of it and its possible consequences to the world at large. In hearing about the great achievements of the past year or two as the Simplon Tunnel, the Assouan Dam and the resulting benefits to Egypt; of the Marconi telegraph and how it is used. In hearing of famous people as Sir Henry Stanley and what he accomplished - Alberto Santos Dumont and his airships; Colonel Younghusband and his expedition to Thibet. Two lessons were taken up with the progress of missions in Japan, the Sudan, Abyssinia and other places.

These talks were illustrated by pictures from the London Graphic, Harper's and Collier's Weekly, World's Work and other papers. A large map hung on the wall and all places mentioned were pointed out on it. The pictures were pinned to cloth tacked onto the wall and were changed each every day.

This was followed by an hour's lesson on "How to teach" by Miss Graf. Classes were brought in and model lessons were given and many hints and suggestions as to how to conduct classes in Reading, Arithmetic and so forth were practically

demonstrated. While this lesson was going on the Bible readers went to Mrs. Andrus and received instruction in the Bible such as would be helpful to them in their special work. Then came twenty minutes spent in singing new hymns. Then an hour of instruction in personal work, how to bring souls to Christ, the men under Dr. Thom, the women under Miss Ferenga

Each day the meetings were closed by an address by one of the native brethren ~~closed the meeting for that day~~.

All who attended expressed themselves as greatly helped by the meetings and hoped that we would repeat the experiment.

In behalf of Mardin Station
Helen D. Thom.

Rec'd MAY 2 1906

Mardin, Turkey March 28, 1906

Ans'd JUN 7 1906

Dear Dr. Barton:

I enclose the first quarterly letter sent from Mardin in more than five years. We sent them faithfully for several years and no notice was taken of them in the Missionary Herald or in any other periodical of the various Boards. We concluded that you did not care much for news from Mardin and as our force was very much reduced at that time we discontinued them. But this year we decided to start the ball rolling again and because my name begins with the tail end of the alphabet I was appointed to write the first one.

During the time when we were sending letters to the Board regularly a gentleman who had become interested in the work here wrote as follows. "I have become very much interested in Mardin and have searched through the Heralds of the past four or five years but find almost nothing about it." We in Mardin are wondering on what principle the news for the Herald is selected. Is it on the ground of the most widely known stations. If so the least known are not likely to become widely known. We have many friends in the United States who take the Herald and look for news from Mardin only to

be disappointed.

We are all in our usual health and the work is going on well.

With kindest regards to Mrs. Barton and love to the two children

Very sincerely Yours
Helen Dewey Flom.

Helen Dewey Flom
Franklin Turkey.
Mar. 28-1906.

Mrs. Thom

Rec'd MAY 2 1906

Mardin Turkey March 28, 1906

Quarterly Letter. No. 1.

Ans'd JUN 7 1906

The Force

Fifteen years ago Mardin Station had eleven adult members and seven children, eighteen in all, a goodly number to get together at Thanksgiving, Christmas and other anniversary occasions. We had been for nearly four years only six adults and one poor lonely child, when the arrival of Mrs. Dewey and her daughter and Mr. and Mrs. Emrick on the fourteenth of November last nearly doubled our numbers, added much to our joy and greatly decreased our burdens. We return our hearty thanks to the Board for sending us these friends to help us in our great need.

Week of Prayer

The latter part of 1905 the Rev. F. Franson the founder of the Scandinavian Alliance Mission, a man of great spiritual power, visited Mardin remaining with us five days. Much good resulted from his visit especially to the young people. Eighty-five persons handed their names to the pastor signifying that they wished to begin the Christian life. This visit coming as it did just before

the Week of Prayer added much to the meetings of the week and others in addition to those who were converted during Mr. Franson's stay made a public confession of their desire to begin a new life. Many in the church who had been at enmity with one another were reconciled; many who had become cold and indifferent renewed their spiritual life; others made public confession of their sins and shortcomings and there was a new interest in spiritual things

Evangelistic Work. Last Sunday there were gathered more than six hundred pupils in the Sunday Schools of this city, half this number are in our own Protestant church and the remainder, mostly Syrians are divided among four schools held in different parts of the city. Three of these are under the care of Miss Jenanga who starts out at nine o'clock Sunday morning and spends about five hours in the three schools sowing seed that seems to have taken root if we can judge by the opposition lately shown by a Syrian priest. Miss Graf has lately started a Sunday School in another part of the city and one in Monenzea a village a half-an-hour from Mardin.

Bible Women. Three Bible women teach fifty-two women how to read. All these women but two are members of non-Protestant communities, many of them

Catholics who have enough independence to come out from under the rule of the priests who seldom encourage their parishioners to learn to read the Bible. One more Bible woman goes about among 150 families reading and explaining the Bible and praying with them. She calls on the sick and the bereaved and gives comfort to all according to her ability. There is also a Bible reader who gives lessons to the men.

The women of our community hold a prayer-meeting once a week in the different houses. In this way many women outside our own church are reached - women who would not enter the "Prote" church are perfectly willing to attend a meeting in a neighbor's house. Thirty to forty is the average attendance at these meetings.

Colporteuring

Our colporteur Michael Ishoo who has been engaged in this work for over forty years was arrested in Midyat several weeks ago by the government, who are much opposed to colporteurs and their work, and was taken to Diarbekir where he was tossed about like a ball from the Board of Education to the Court of Fines and back again on any excuse that would serve to lengthen out his case and keep him from his work. He was finally discharged a few days ago without

a penally as no sufficiently valid reason could be found for assigning one. Colporteuring in this country is attended with many difficulties. The Government which is always with us is never for us. Although the colporteur carries only books stamped with the seal of the government censor he is liable at any time to be arrested and to have his books seized. Sometimes they are sent to the Board of Education in Constantinople and then he must stop his work until the books are returned which is usually a long time.

The work is also handicapped by the British and Foreign Agency at Mosul whose men encroach on our territory and are able to undersell us. The difficulties are to be further increased the coming year beginning July next by the fact that the American Bible Society has closed its financial year heavily in debt and is greatly reducing its appropriations to its foreign agencies. The salary of our colporteur is to be reduced 90 piastres a month ($3.75) at a time when the price of flour is over twice what it was two years ago.

Education.

Never was the desire of parents to educate their children so strong or so wide spread in Turkey as it is to-day not only among the Protestants but among the Syrians also. For the first time in its history a boarding-school for boys has been opened in Deir Zeferan. This old

monastery is situated about three miles east of Mardin and is the see of the ancient Jacobite-Syrian church.

In the two boarding-schools on the missionary premises there are 64 boys of whom more than one-third are Syrians. In the girls' boarding-school there are 39. In the city under the care of the missionaries there are six primary schools and one kindergarten attended by about 250 pupils more than half of whom are Syrians.

Orphans.

The orphans under our care have greatly decreased in numbers of late especially the girls. An epidemic of matrimony struck them about the first of January and spread very rapidly. It has carried off five victims already and two more are now in the first stages and are expected to follow in a few days. We are very glad to have these orphan girls settled in good homes of their own.

Condition of the Country.

Oppression is at high tide and the poverty of the people is at its lowest ebb. Within the past few years taxes have been greatly increased while the price of a day's labor remains the same as it was thirty years ago. viz from ten to twelve cents. The soldier tax which is put upon every male Christian from the time he is born is more than twice what it was. It used to require six days wages to pay it; now it takes seventeen days or

nearly three weeks. One of our Bible women has three sons whose yearly tax amounts to 150 piastres, more than two months wages, or one sixth of her yearly income. The government is continually asking the people for special taxes as, for instance; just now a census is being taken and a day's wages is the price of each name written. Price of wheat is double what it was and there is no increase of wages to meet the increase in price. People say "It takes all we can earn just to buy flour for bread and some days we are obliged to go without." Very many are afraid that their crops will be destroyed this year by locusts as their eggs were very plentifully deposited in the soil last year. It is a great trial to us to see so much poverty and consequent suffering that we are totally unable to relieve.

Not only does the government cruelly oppress the people but it fails to secure safety for them as they go about trying to gain a livelihood. The word "travelling" in Turkey is almost synonomous with with robbery and murder. People in the villages two or three hours from Mardin do not dare to come in with their eggs, lebbin &c. unless many come together.

A few days ago Mr. Emrich and Miss Steele went out for a walk and forgetting that they were in Turkey they kept on walking until they were an hour and a half from home on the edge of the plain

All at once they found themselves "held up" by five Hamadieh Kooreds followers of Hassein Khuja, a noted Hamadieh Colonel who demanded money and were proceeding to forcibly take off their shoes and a few other outside articles. We do not know how far they would have gone when Miss Steele threatened to tell Doctor Thom about it. She said it not knowing how efficacious the name Doctor would prove. The men threw back the things mounted their horses and were off. None of the missionaries go to the near villages now without an escort provided by the government. Formerly they were in the habit of going with no one but a servant.

As we look forward to the future we see no prospect of amelioration in the condition of the people so long as the present government continues. But our faith and our hope are in God and in Him do we put our trust."

In behalf of Mardin Station
Helen Dewey Thom -

Quarterly letter from Mardin
Station - No. 1 -
Mrs. D. M. B. Thom
Mar. 28-1906.

Mrs. J. M. B. Thomson
Brumana Syria

Rec'd SEP 10 1906 200

August 17. 1906 -

Too late for answer

My dear Dr. Barton.

Our party reached Beirut a week ago to-day after a most tiring journey of twenty-three days over land from Mardin.

We find very bad-full-no vacant houses-until

Sept 10. when we sail
for Alexandria where
we connect the same
day we arrive with a
steamer for Naples where
we remain two or three
days and sail for
Boston on the "Canopic"
September nineteenth
reaching Boston Oct-
ober 1st. I suppose
Mr. Hosmer will meet

O.K. Hosmer

me. If there should be any change in the programme I will let Mr. Stosser know from Naples. We have considerable baggage to be passed at the custom-house - two bales of rugs and five trunks and boxes.

We are visiting Nellie here and as I had not seen her for ten years we are enjoying it

very much-

We have been stayin
here for two days a
have enjoyed the mou
air very much. We rel
to Beirut - to-day -

Write love to Mrs.
Barton

Yours sincere
Helen D. Th

If necessary to write
address care
Thos. Cook & Sons
Naples -

Rec'd NOV 21 1906
Ans'd NOV 21 1906

201

Cameron Street
Dorchester, Mass.
November 20, 1906-

My dear Dr. Barton;

Will you please give me a letter of introduction to some physician that you can recommend. I want one who is good with children. Katharine has trouble with her tonsils and Dr. Post of Beirut tell me they ought to be removed. Just now they are much swollen and inflamed. Will you please tell me what his hours are so that I can take Katharine to see him?

Sincerely Yours-
Helen D. Thom

D. Cushing

Dr. B. Thom

Nov. 20-1906.

Rec'd DEC 7 1906

202

20 Cameron Street
Dorchester Mass.
Dec. 6. 1906

Ans'd DEC 12 1906

Dear Dr. Barbour.

I am sending you the copy of a letter which my husband sent me to send to you. I ought to have done it before but was hindered in different ways. I hope the delay will not have inconvenienced you.

I have been sorry to hear that you were to be gone so much of the time I am to be here but my personal feeling is of little moment compared to the gladness that your coming will bring to so many.

I hope and pray that you will successfully accomplish all that you wish on your long journey and that God will bring you safely home again.

Katharine is a prisoner in the house just now. I took her on Monday to the Children's Hospital and Dr. Greene operated on her throat nose and ear. She was so long under the influence of ether that she has not been able to eat much since. But when she recovers she will be better than ever I hope.

Yours sincerely
Helen D. Thom.

Mrs. D. B. Thom
Hopkinton - Mass.
Care Dr. Hyde.

MAR 15 1900

H. L. Underwood

St. Anthony's Hospital
Denver, Colo. Mar. 11. 1900.

Rev. C. H. Daniels
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Daniels, - Your letter of 2nd inst. received. In accordance with your suggestion I have consulted with Dr Hall. Doctor Van Zant recommended him and he was my own preference as well. He is the best man on heart affections in Denver, I believe and one of the best in the West. His contributions to the literature of the subject are numerous and invaluable and altogether, I am especially glad to have his opinion, for it is that of a recognized authority concerning heart disease.

Sincerely
H. L. Underwood.

Shanghai July 16. 01.

Dear Doctor Smith:-

Your letter replying to mine of the 9th just recd. I would prefer to leave the decision whether I go to Pitlix or N. China, for the Board to decide. We are willing to go to either field, although I have felt that strategically China is the more important and perhaps the more needy in the medical aspect. The considerations which would influence our decision are really not personal and can be estimated by the Board better than by myself. If the Board considers it reasonably safe to go to Pao-ting-fu. (or necessary though unsafe); if it is deemed wise to send a new man instead of one familiar with Chinese character I will gladly go to Pao-ting-fu. If it seem unwise to send a new man to that station or if the whole aspect of things Chinese makes it appear doubtful if we could start this Fall - I will be glad to go to Pitlix rather than wait another year. Any personal

Transc. Corr.
Mch 11, 1902.

preference so far as it exists is for Lebuna but it is too slight to be seriously considered. We are quite willing to go to either country. Some missionaries with whom I have talked have expressed the greatest fears that work in N. Lebuna can not be resumed at present and they are making no efforts to return this fall. Others hold that only veteran missionaries should go for some time to come.

The decision of these questions rests with the Board and I would like them to decide our field.

As my first year would be spent with Mr. Atwood and would be largely devoted to study the disadvantage of greenness counts for less here.

Thank you for advice concerning passports. Kindly send me another Manual as mine either lost or given away.

Sincerely yours
H. G. Underwood.

London, Oct. 1st 1901.
101 Southampton Row.

Dear Mr. Smith:- While in Boston nothing was said to me concerning the frequency with which I should write; but I suppose it is proper to write often enough so that you may be fully informed of our movements. We landed at Liverpool Sept 28th after a rather rough passage. Spent Sunday in Chester and early Monday morning started for London stopping off at Oxford three or four hours with Mr. Longridge of the Baptist Board. To-day I visited Mr. A. J. Brider, Agent for the Foreign Missions Club in order to obtain help in the buying of a few things; and to my surprise found our entire party who had remained over Sunday in Liverpool. Here too, I learned that Dr. Shepard is still in London and I hope to meet him soon. A conference with one of his experience I shall be most grateful for.

Within a day or two we plan to go on to Paris, from which place my next letter will be dated. It would be most pleasant if we could remain here until Mr. McCallum's return from Germany and then accompany our party into France; but I see no necessity of doing so and do wish to see Dr. Atkinson possible before he leaves Paris. On board the "Devonia" I made the acquaintance of young Frenchman - a student in the Paris of Physics and Chemistry. I practiced French conversation with him and gained not a little information of service. My French was not to say amusing, to the other members of our company.

Inasmuch as we proceed to Paris almost immediately it will be useless to send our London address.

I remain most gratefully
Yours in Christ service
H. G. Underwood.

Dr. H. L. Underwood
12 Rue Longchamps
Paris, Oct 8th 01.

Dr. Judson Smith Recd Oct. 16
Boston
Mass.

Dear Doctor Smith: We ar-
ved in Paris Saturday evening
t I have delayed writing
l until satisfactory quarters
uld be obtained and our
dress definitely fixed. Any
tters that have come to the
and rooms for us, kindly forward to
above address. Only yesterday
learned with delight that
r. Atkinson is still here.
had almost given up hope
seeing him. Chancing to
ll at Miss Woods (21 Ave
rand Armee we learned that
e is at 20 Rue Kairault. I
ope to see him soon. I did
know enough French to

obtain necessities and go about and only occasionally is a Frenchman so impolite (or filled with a sense of the ludicrous) as to laugh at my shortcomings. Possibly I have previously mentioned meeting Dr. Shepard in London. He gave me much information of value. Both he and Mr. Macallum consider it hardly wise to attempt the journey to Bitlis even by the southern route before next May: though Harpoot is accessible at any time. This may necessitate our staying at Constantinople several months. Mr Macallum is of the opinion that this will not be objectionable as I can study the language equally well there. Of course neither he nor I know the conditions in Bitlis which might influence us to attempt

a winter journey part way at least. I am told that 15 ft. of snow is quite common in the Bitlis district in winter.

Extract to Mr. Swett

I have written to Mr. Peet and also to our agent at Alexandretta to retain the trunk freighted with our other goods to one or other port of entry - it being understood that the general outfit is to go through to Bitlis if possible. Doubtless they have already left Boston otherwise it would be well to repeat the directions in the advice accompanying shipment.

I learn that cocaine is contraband in Turkey and must be slipped in unawares.

It is probably too late to save it this time: but if it has happened that my

drug order at Metcalfe's has not been sent kindly ask Mr. Swett to see that only the chemical formula appears on the package.

Most sincerely yours in serv.

N. L. Underwood.

Dr. Atkinson's address is 21 Rue Clairaut.

Dr. H. L. Henderwood
2 Rue Longchamp
Pl. d'Iena
Paris, Nov. 1. 1901.

Rec'd Nov. 11

Dear Doctor Smith:- Your letter of the 21st ult. was received two days ago. I am surprised to learn that you have not heard from Dr. Atkinson and believe some of his letters must have failed to reach you. By a happy chance I learned his address while in search of lodgings for ourselves. We stopped at a pension kept by Miss Wood 21 Avenue Grande Armée, to inquire for rooms and learned that Dr. A. spent a week there on his arrival. I mention the address because it is an exceedingly nice place at most moderate rates and possibly some of our missionaries may go there in future. Rooms would have to be secured in advance. We did not remain there as the place is distinctly

American - an objection if French is to be acquired. Needless to say - Dr. and Mrs A. were more than glad to meet us and learn that we are "in the same boat" with themselves.

The acquaintance is most delightful, and profitable also, for through him I have met several French persons who are glad to help us. In particular I might mention a Mme Kane who gives us daily a lesson in French. She is a Christian (Protestant) rich in love of service and refuses all compensation. She is well educated, and possesses both talent and experience as a teacher.

The letters forwarded to Constantinople were sent here by Mr Peet some time ago. With them came a letter of welcome from Mr. Cole in Bitlis.

He is evidently hoping for my arrival this year. I have written to him explaining our position and the necessity of a prolonged stay in Paris.

Your suggestion that I can occupy the time in Constantinople in language study, after passing the examinations, is one that both Dr. A. and I will follow doubtless, unless he finds it possible to go on to Harpoot.

I can set no definite date as yet for going on to Constantinople but, it is becoming more and more evident that I shall need a fairly thorough and very practical grasp of French if I am to pass the oral examination.

May I ~~ask~~ ~~you~~ to kindly request Mr. Swett to send me the sum total of our outfit purchases in Boston — also the tonnage of the goods shipped? It will be needful to buy some things here perhaps yet we wish to keep within bounds.

I enclose a Kodak picture of our steamer party, unfortunately — Miss Halsey was absent.

We thank you for the kind words of your letter and Mrs U. joins with me in sending best wishes to you and to Mrs Smith whom we met at the rooms in Boston.

Very truly
H. L. Underwo

12 rue Longchamps.
Paris, Nov. 25, 01.

Dear Mr. Smith:-

Your letter of Nov. 14th was received day before yesterday. Within a few days I have also heard from Mr Peet in Constantinople.

He advises me to complete my preparation in Paris and not come on to Constantinople until ready for the French medical examinations.

I believe I mentioned in the previous letter, receiving Mr. Cole's letter of greeting.

While extending a hearty welcome to us not only personally but as physicians; I believe from the way he writes (expressing the hope that

you are aware has preceded us.

Dr. A. and I are putting in our time largely in attending medical lectures and accustoming our ears to French. A considerable delay in Paris will be necessary if we are to meet an oral examination which it seems is the case.

Mr and Mrs Barnum of Constantinople have extended to me an invitation to make my home with them when we shall reach C'nople.

We learned with great joy that the Board debt was lifted at the Hartford meeting.

With best wishes

Sincerely yours in service

H. G. Underwood.

possibly I have had theological training as well as medical and so can lighten his burden a little. That just now he feels greater need of another clergyman rather than a physician. If conditions demand a clergyman rather than a physician please feel free to change our destination even now; for my special preparation has been wholly along medical lines, and while I am willing to act in an emergency in any capacity to the best of my ability nevertheless my permanent work will necessarily be that of a physician. I mention it merely because I would not like to disappoint Mr. Cole and because in case the Board should consider ~~sending~~ transferring us to Lahina (our first love.) or elsewhere, it would be necessary to send word immediately to intercept our outfit which as

Dr. H. L. Underwood

Paris, Nov. 25. 1901

Rec'd Dec. 6,

H. G. Underwood, M.D.

299
JAN 28 1902

12 rue Longchamp
Paris, France, Dec 24, 01

MAR 8 1902

Dear Mr. Smith:

Your letter of Dec. 7th welcomed a few days ago. You ask about the approximate date of our departure for Constantinople as soon as we find it possible to fix a date. At present I hope to leave the last of January. Mr. Peet advised us to stay here until we complete our preparation in French. I am hoping to have sufficient knowledge of the language by that time to express myself after a fashion. French has the reputation of being a language easy to read but difficult to

speak, and so I find it. If the examination were to be written it would be decidedly easier for me.

A letter from Dr. Daniels gave us the delightful information that the So. Norwalk Church Com. has adopted us as in a special way - their missionaries.

Is it customary in such cases to transfer ones church letter to the supporting church?

Of course, we shall at any rate keep in as close touch with them as possible: and have already written them (both my wife and I.) Also sent some pictures taken en route.

We enjoyed a pleasant surprise in meeting Miss Wartley and Miss Osborn here in Paris, where they passed a

little time while en route for China. They stayed, while here, at the same pension as Dr. A. That pension is kept by very nice people but is in a part of the city corresponding to East side New York - is much less conveniently located and no cheaper than our rates.

Omnibuses are the only public means of communication there while 12 rue Longchamp is close to the river steamers, underground railway, omnibuses & trams. The cheapest and pleasantest service is that of the Seine steamers. Our ~~hostess~~ landlady knows some English, is used to keeping

foreigners and is most pleas
in every way. Please do not
take this as a depreciatio
of the people at 21 rue
Klairaut; but that location
certainly most inconvenient
for transient visitors partic
The full address here i

Mlle. Eytel
12 rue Longchamps
Place d'Iena
Paris.

I learned with some interes
that Mlle Eytel is the daught
of M. Eytel - (now deceased)
a well-known lawyer, a
personal friend of Victor Hu
and President of the first
International Peace Congress
Please pardon the nature

of this letter but in addition to the fact that our landlady can offer a delightful home for missionaries en route, she herself is a worthy Christian and in no small need financially.

With best wishes and thanking you for past favors

Sincerely yours

H. G. Underwood.

JAN 8 1902
JAN 8 1902

12 rue Longchamp
Paris France
12/19/01.

Rev. C. H. Daniels
Boston Mass.
U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Daniels:- Your letter of the 7th just recd. telling the good news that the South Norwalk Church (Conn.) has adopted us as their missionaries. It will be a great blessing to us and I hope, of some service to them. We shall at once write to Mr. Strayer and enter into the interests of the church and enjoy its fellowship even if it must be at long range.

It is the unexpected that happens. I have had the

There is the further advantage of a pleasant and central location with the underground railway, the river steamers, trams etc. all close at hand.

Address
Mlle Eytel
12 rue Longchamp
Pl d'Iena
Paris.

hope that my home church in Jamestown N.Y and the Plymouth church of Denver Colo. would possibly unite in assuming our support: but as it is - old ties will still hold there and we shall make new ones in addition.

Thanking you for the letter and the enclosed calendar - I remain

Sincerely yours
H. L. Underwood.

P.S. If you know of any of our missionaries who may touch Paris in the near future kindly give them this address. Our hostess is exceedingly kind - accustomed to housing foreigners - sets a good table at very low rates. Further is a Protestant Christian: and is very willing to harbor transient visitors.

Dr. H. L. Underwood

Paris. France

Dec. 19. 1901

East-Turkey

H. L. Underwood, M.D. 211

JAN 25 1902

12 rue Longchamp
Pl. d'Iena Paris, Jan 12/02

MAR 8 1902

Rev. Jas. L. Barton
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Barton: Your letter of Dec. 27th received a few days ago bringing the pleasant news that you are again at home and looking after your E. Turkey missionaries ~~again~~. Mr Smith has given us no notice to that effect but I presume we are to correspond with you hereafter.

We shall never forget his kindly face and good offices in our behalf. I had the privilege of meeting him at Clifton Springs N.Y. as well as in Boston just before sailing.

We regretted very much your absence both because we wished a personal acquaintance with the one in charge

us to become "well prepared" before leaving Paris. That of course would require several months more and both Dr. A and I feel that as soon as we can express ourselves in some sort of fashion in French, we will go on. This will be about Feb. 1st as now planned so it will be best to direct further letters to Constantinople.

Thank you for the word of greeting and good wishes and if you can give us suggestions about our stay in Constantinople - our relations with officials etc. or any other advice we will put it all to good use.

Sincerely yours in the work

H. G. Underwood.

Kindly give Mr. Smith our best wishes

of our work and because as a former missionary on the field you could doubtless give more "points" of practical advice than could Mr. Smith. In London I met Dr. Shepard of Aintab and Mr. Macallum and family were with us on the "Devonian" coming over; and from them I learned much of value.

No very recent news from Mr. Cole though we have had several letters since our arrival here. In his last, he evidently still hoped we could come on to Bitlis in January via Alexandrette but it is of course impossible. Dr. Atkinson and I are making every effort to shorten our stay here in Paris but we will not be able to face the oral examination in French for some little time yet; and Mr. Peet has warned

H. G. Underwood, M.D.

272
MAR 19 1902

Constantinople
Mar. 1st 1902.

Rev. Jas. L. Barton,
Boston
Mass.
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Barton:- You will observe that we have at last reached the land of the Turk though still very far from our immediate field of Activity. We including also Dr. and Mrs. A. left Paris Feb. 5th taking the overland route. We passed Saturday and Sunday in Vienna then resumed our journey. At Buda-Pesth a rumour reached us that R.R. connection with C'nople was broken, but not until we entered Servia did it become certain that we must halt enroute. This we did at Philippopolis with Mr. and Mrs. Marsh.

After nearly a week of waiting for the railway repairs with no assurance of an early reopening of traffic, we went to Bourgas expecting to take a steamer next day for Constantinople; but on arrival there, found that storms had delayed the vessel and we were forced to stay from Wed. evening to Sunday p.m. Fortunately we received most kind and untiring help and entertainment at the hands of the native pastor, Mr. Pachejieff. We had of course a royal welcome at Philippopolis so apart from the irritation of delay the journey has pleasant memories - all save the night on the stormy Black Sea. It is well named.

We found a delightful home

with Mr. and Mrs. Barnum and hope to remain until time for the inland trip - not later than April if we go via Alexandretta - or May if by the northern route. Dr. and Mrs. Atkinson hope to go as far as Marsovan as soon as our examinations are passed - the preliminaries of which are now being arranged through Mr. Peet's lawyer at the Bible House. Our petition will be sent in next Wednesday and there will probably be little delay - meanwhile we are continuing French - not daring to begin Turkish because of our feeble grip on the former.

Thought I reached Paris Oct. 5th and so have had

just four months in that city medical lectures did not begin until early in December and in consequence medical French was studied at disadvantage.

A letter just rec'd from Mr. Cole in Bitis tells us that our outfit has arrived except three boxes which are still at Antab. If we go that way we shall have the advantage of seeing the medical work in the hospital and also Dr. Shepherd's work in Diarbekr.

Sincerely yours in service

H. G. Underwood.

H. G. Underwood, M. D.

MAY 28 1902

Erzroum, May 3d 1902.

JUN 28 1902

Dr. Jas. L. Barton:-
Boston
Mass.

Dear Mr. Barton:- I will enclose this note in a letter to Mr. Peet which he can forward to you, letting you know of our safe arrival at E. May 1st. A telegram rec'd. by Mr. Stapleton the same date announced that the Bitlis party had just left B. to escort Miss Knapp here.

I would acknowledge the receipt of your kind letter, while awaiting the examination in Constantinople. It is a comfort amid all the delay we have experienced, to know that the Board realizes the conditions and does not hold us responsible for this long and expensive period of "yawash". My teskiri gave me some trouble at Trebizond as it stated my age as 18 yrs.

and as the customs examina
was very searching we had to
delay long enough to repack
everything. The journey here
has been without accidents a
with only one bad mountain
pass.

Considerable damage to the
mission property from the earth
quake is evident but of all
you are aware.

With sincere best wishes
Yours faithfully
H. G. Underwood.

We plan to accompany Mr. Cole
on his return from escorting Mr.
Knapp to this city so hope to be
in a week or ten days.
Weather and water conditions bet
C. and Bitlis are very bad and
we fear a hard experience for
the invalid.

JUL 7 1902

Bitlis Turkey. June 7th 1902.

SEP 23 1902

Rev. Jas. L. Barton D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Doctor Barton:- Your letter of May 9th came last post. The Black Sea was not benevolently inclined - at least till we reached Samsoun. Mrs. Atkinson was so sick that after landing she declared she would never go on the Black Sea again even if it involved the spending of the remainder of her life here without a furlough. And I was sick enough to have some sympathy with that opinion. We reached Bitlis May 24th in company with Mr. Cole and Miss Mary Ely whose arrival in company with Miss Knapp we had awaited in Erzroum. In our journey to E. we enjoyed the company of Miss Ruth Parmelee as interpreter so dispensed with native help except the driver. The only accident of this first stage was an upset of the foargon on Kop Mt. which did not prove serious. Just before entering Khanous plain we were visited by five robbers who fired several shots and then ran towards us till they saw our two guards and a number of foot travellers (armed) who chanced to be in

our company, then perceiving we were too strong for them retired. A royal welcome awaited us from the missionaries and school children on our arrival. It seems to be the general opinion that I should avoid medical work as much as possible for the present in favor of language study - an opinion I shared before coming here but find it exceedingly difficult to carry out. Turkish patients press me for treatment and try as I may I cannot help treating some of them. The fact that I shall be called by all classes makes it desirable to take up Turkish first which all the male inhabitants of the city know, and let Armenian take second place for a while. As Mr. Chambers of Bardazag advised "You will be obliged to learn both therefore learn Turkish first and since you will constantly be associated with Armenians that may well be left to soak in or at least take second place in systematic study. This seems to be the universal opinion, save Mr. Cole is uncertain - perhaps favors Armenian. I the hope that I may give medical work a second place and take up evangelistic work. On the whole I have decided to continue Turkish as I feel sure that my best work will be along medical lines or rather along medical missionary lines.

It is good to be here and better to feel that we are needed. Whatever there may be of personal motive back of the cordial welcome from civil and military officials I am persuaded that as a doctor I can do more real, effective work than in any other way even limiting results to the purely spiritual.

Thanking you for the interest and good wishes of your last letter I remain

Cordially yours

H. G. Underwood.

Texas, Austin

c. 1902

AUG 18 1902

SEP 23 1902

Hunsor Keen (near Tadvan) Turkey
July 12, 02.

Rev. Jas. L. Barton, D.D.
Boston, Mass. U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Barton:- While enroute for Van in company with Mr. Cole, we are detained here waiting for a boat in the "yawash style so peculiar to Turkey. However it gives opportunity to do some needed touring as well as leisure to write concerning a trip to Mousk which we made recently (June 27-July 3.) Being within the Bitlis vilayet, no papers were necessary. We applied for one zabtieh but the government in its fatherly solicitude provided three - a superabundance of protection of which we could not rid ourselves! A few hours easy riding brought us to the scene of Moosa Beg's attack upon Dr. Reynolds and Mr. Knapp - where the valley widens to enter the magnificent stretch of level upland known as Mousk Plain. Level as a floor it reaches westward almost to the horizon but is abruptly limited on all sides by the mountains save in the direction of Lake Van where is open country somewhat rolling, as Tadvan is approached. I was deeply impressed with the natural advantages of this Mousk region over those of Bitlis - beautifully situated (perhaps I should say buried) as is the latter in the intersections of several mountain gorges. Shortly after entering the plain we came to the site of an old mausoleum near which a natural artesian well bursts out of

the ground and meanders off into the plain
a large stream in itself sufficient to supply
a city of considerable size. Here and there
other points we found large springs and
together with the numerous surface streams
from the mountains furnish a water supply
abundant for the present population albeit
cultivation demands irrigation. If in some future
time, with a population manyfold greater than
at present, the water supply should fail, there
seems every topographic condition favorable to
the successful drilling of artesian wells. Apart from
great fertility and abundant water supply I was
impressed with another feature of this plain
that is - its comparative accessability. Should
the projected railway connection from the main
Tedjiz line to Diarbekir be extended northward
the Moush plain would very likely be one
objective point and probably the city of Moush
rather than Bitlis in spite of the fact that
the latter is the present capital of the province
(formerly Moush was the chief city before the
vilayet was formed.) Further Moush is only
days from Erzroum. On the other hand, if
the railway connection come from the Russian
border - say to Van - the lake would furnish
easy transport to and from Moush plain
and Tadvan would be the natural port of
shipment. With curious inconsistency the
present government has already built several
miles of (originally) splendid road in the m

the plain running in an air line straight away toward Moush, meanwhile leaving more needy parts elsewhere, in an execrable condition. This road is superfluous at present and practically abandoned but it would probably be taken as a road-bed by any railway entering the plain. As we neared the city I was struck by its fine location in a wide valley close to but a little above the southern limit of the plain and altogether so superior to Bitlis in its situation that I wondered that it had been discarded as the chief city of the province. Architecturally it is far inferior to B. and its houses of irregular stones or sun-dried brick covered with mortar or mud and straw reminded me that the soft building stone so common in Bitlis is lacking here. Altogether Moush reminded me of Erzroum. Like E. it is inferior in architectural appearance to Bitlis but like Erzroum, though in less degree, it is superior in its openness to European commerce and the attitude of its officials so far as I could judge. About an hour's journey from Moush we stopped at a village overlooking the plain and from here - aided by a small telescope I counted no less than thirty villages. In the whole plain there are, it is estimated, fully 150 to 200 villages ranging in size from a dozen houses to over 3000. Practically all are Armenian. The plain as a whole, together with Moush offers a field for mission work

which for compactness, accessibility, homogeneous population and future prospects is more tempting to the missionary than any field in the empire of which I have heard. In the city there is a population of some 18000 to 20000, about one third being Armenians. Within a radius of five hours horseback travel there is probably an Armenian population of fully 50000.
As a residence, Bitlis has many advantages but it has not, to my mind, the strategic importance of Mush. Apparently the Roman Catholics and Gregorians are also of this opinion - at least they make M. the headquarters of their prelates.
While in the city we made our home at the orphanage and I became acquainted with the teacher, whose wife so unjustly sentenced to 5 years imprisonment, is still a prisoner with her little babe only a few weeks old. I did not see her but the patient sad face of her husband told eloquently of the severity of their trial.
Mr. Cole was more than busy. He has often been considered dangerously active by the officials and I must say I think he is dangerous to himself. For one at his age burdened with a varicose limb and other thorns in the flesh - to travel as did he, Sunday, in the extreme heat, to hold three services in as many places, giving three addresses himself and translating as well for his new associate, together with church meeting and continual informal discussion of business, is too much, and I did not have to use any professional

acumen to determine the cause of the bad turn with the limb which followed, nor the hoarseness which lasted for a week afterward. The fact is, Mr. Cole has used his best years already as a touring missionary and can no longer endure the strain with impunity. I do not wonder that he has expressed the need of an ordained associate for more than in most fields the work of the Bitlis mission should be a touring work, and as a medical missionary I can not meet the need. There is abundant opportunity for an extensive medical work as well and I hope not to leave the villages untouched by it; meanwhile I can but say amen, to every appeal for an associate who can develope the general work in what is to my mind the future center of work in this vilayet that is Moush and the plain in whose longitudinal center the city is so well situated.

I am sure you will not object to my sending in these impressions of a "tenderfoot" and so enjoying the privilege of talking from my wealth of inexperience. Later on perhaps I'll not be so cock-sure. With warm greetings to both yourself and Dr. Smith; I remain

Sincerely yours

H. G. Underwood.

Memoir Sent, July 16, 1902

Rec'd APR 14 1903 216
Ans'd APR 17 1903

Bitlis, Turkey, Feb. 20th 1903.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.
14 Beacon St. Boston, Mass. U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Barton:- While I have not prepared a formal report of the medical work since our arrival May 24th of last year, - language study and some touring having delayed considerably the free entrance upon medical practice; nevertheless it seems desirable to let you know what has been done and to give you my impressions of the outlook. I have been somewhat disappointed in the number of cases treated - 1305 treatments - from June to Dec. 31st including dispensary calls, bed-side visits and the schools. Receipts for the same period aggregate 4482½ piastres silver. or (£1. @ 108) $182.60

From this subtract expenditures 1664½ pia. $67.81

Bal. $114.79

Less cost of medicines and dressings 44.00

$70.79

The receipts include one contribution from America (C. Underwood - $10), also 10 £t. - $44.00 from Dr. Ussher. This was ostensibly for assistance

rendered him in his work but I regard it as practically a gift. Subtracting these from the net balance leaves $16.79 as the profits of a half-years work. You will see then that disregarding donations the work is practically just self-supporting. The small number treated has allowed some leisure for study of the language and in that aspect may be regarded as fortunate, but unless there shall be a decided increase in the future I shall be much disappointed. In an equal period of temporary practice in America I have been far busier with medical work than in Pithiz. After my touring last summer in company with Mr. Coll, I wrote you a letter expressing my "tenderfoot opinions". One of these was that the work in this vilayet is naturally a touring work pre-eminently and that Pithiz is unfortunately situated for the missionary center. At that time I hoped that for the medical work it would be less unfavorable; but the same conditions will I believe make a hospital on any satisfactory scale very difficult to carry on permanently.

until in desperation they may pray me "to depart from their coasts" to re-quote a biblical phrase used in this same connection by Mr. Cole on his return lately from a brief tour.

I do not write this rather pessimistic view as an unchangeable conviction but as a present opinion. Last summer in Han Dr. Reynolds expressed doubt as to the success of any large medical work in Bitlis. I discounted his opinion then somewhat but I begin to believe he is right. There are certainly plenty in the vilayet who need medical relief - the problem is to reach them under present conditions.

Sincerely
H. G. Underwood.

The usual obstacles found throughout the country, ignorance, prejudice, and suspicion seem more intense here than in Erzroum or Van. There is less commercial activity so that the natives themselves speak of Bitlis as the place to hoard money and Moush as the place to spend it. The hoarding spirit has been shown in unnumbered cases in which a patient comes to me perfectly able to pay but willing to risk death itself rather than do so. A second unfavorable consideration is, that for several months each year free communication with the outlying country is blocked by heavy snows, so patients from the villages cannot enter. All of my work now and for months past has been wholly among the city people.

There are three other physicians here, two military doctors and the validiyeh doctor. I have endeavored to maintain friendly relations with them and in some cases they have called me in consultation. So far as I can judge they possess a good medical education but do little surgical work. I feel strongly that the surgical work

will be the chief instrument of influence here in spite of the reluctance of the people and the bad situation of the city for a hospital accessible to all. There is another hindrance to the villagers coming here aside from the bad location and the bad weather - it is the bad g-t. For those absolutely penniless there is less difficulty perhaps. - and those who have come to me from a distance have invariably been of this class - barring Kurdish patients who travel freely. The whole situation in brief is this - Bitlis city alone seems now to be an insufficient medical field. The population in the vilayet offers abundant material but cannot come to me. Can I go to them? To certain of the larger towns (Mush, Sasp, Khiani) I believe I can. With what profit can be better told after a tour which I am planning for this spring. Reaching the multitudes of small villages which constitute the bulk of the population will be more difficult. At the sacrifice of all proper medical facilities I can probably visit any of the small places but it will be in company with two to six yabtichs who will live royally on the villagers

Medical Report of Work done during year.

BOS'D AUG 3 1903

The Melazgerd Earth-quake.

Lying to the north of Lake Van in the vilayet of Bitlis is a section of country of remarkable beauty and diversity of view. Limiting the strip of lowland which borders the northern shore of the lake are a series of great hills - treeless - but which furnish magnificent grazing ground for the large flocks which constitute the chief possession of the inhabitants. Where cultivated the soil proves its fertility but to most of the tribesmen agriculture is too strenuous a pursuit to be attractive and is left to the dwellers in the plain below and still to the north. This plain is a beautiful strip of level upland stretching eastward beyond the magnificent snow capped peak of the Sipan Dagh and on the north west by the mountain range beyond the Murad or Eastern Euphrates which wanders through the plain. The eastern portion is called the Plain of Melazgerd, the western, the Bulanik Plain. To the south west and close to the western end of Lake Van stands Nimrod Mountain another extinct volcano of far less magnitude than Sipan (Seepan) but once a mighty worker as evidenced by the great lava and tuff beds which cover this region and which furnish unlimited quantities of the very soft building stone so peculiar to the architecture of this vilayet

Further evidence of the volcanic nature of the region strikes one on seeing fragments of pumice stone lying in profusion on the western shore of Lake Van or lightly carried along in the rivulets meandering across the country. Large masses of obsidian dot the country here and there - ancient land-marks of the workshop of Vulcan. Altogether the country seems well calculated for seismic disturbances and in point of fact the catastrophe of April 29th of this year is not the only one in the history of Meloygerd.

Within three or four days after the shock the vague reports first received assumed such definite form that it was deemed best that a tour of inspection and medical relief should be made. In company with the Protestant pastor I left Bitlis the morning of May 4th. On emerging from the mountain gorges amid which the city lies into the open highland above, our road struck northward toward Yadwan at the western end of the lake. The winters heavy snow fall - a total of nearly 18 feet - had been slow to disappear and soon we were traversing drifts, hard enough happily, to support a horse and rider barring one in which the pack horse slumped through and pitched my medical assistant headlong.

But such trifles only flavored and intensified the delight

of our journey in the fresh air and warm sunshine of spring-time in Kurdistan. I even forgave my horse when ~~while~~ pausing to drink at a small stream he suddenly proceeded to lie down in it. I escaped with wet feet and a feeling of satisfaction that the native horse at least has bathing instincts which are sadly lacking in the human population.

The limit of our first day's journey was Gaogh - a little village on the lake marked on the map as Gigag. Its population is Armenian. An interesting old ruin stands on a rock which juts into the lake. It is a church, dating as inscriptions on its walls show, from the fifteenth century. Two earthquake victims from another village claimed medical attention but fortunately their wounds were not serious. At six o'clock next morning we were again in the saddle and at 9.30 arrived at Akhlat one of the most beautifully situated of all Anatolian towns and which possesses most interesting ruins of an old castle and fortified wall.

We had heard conflicting reports about the damage done by the earth-quake in Akhlat and I was pleased to learn that only two persons were killed and two houses ruined in the city. Far the Kaza (district or county) a sadder story was told me by the Kaimakam

who gave me a cordial welcome and on learning my purpose invited me to accompany him on a visit to the stricken villages of his Kaza. He reported a total of seventy two deaths occurring in the Circassian villages of Yowourt Yemag, Achjineran, Khaing and Denelik. I visited all but the latter. In Yowourt Yemag (an odd name meaning "He doesn't eat madjoon") only three were killed at the time of the shock. One boy desperately wounded, was in a hopeless condition when I saw him and he died next day. The houses were badly shattered but the walls of many were still standing.

Dead animals were lying in the road together with debris of all sorts. The homeless families had erected pitiful shelters of odds and ends of matting and rugs. In fact those whose houses were not wrecked dared not inhabit them for fear of another shock. Such desolation I had never seen but later after visiting other villages Yowourt Yemag seemed favored in comparison. We had planned to go next to Khaing but a Circassian giant in stature, from the little mountain village of Akhjineran plead earnestly that we go to that place and the Kaimakam also favoring it we yielded. A sharp storm of wind and rain struck us a few minutes later and on our arrival we were forced to pitch our tents amid the

from pour - there being not even a temporary shelter available. Meanwhile I crawled into a low shelter of mats and rugs to examine a patient. a Circassian who had sustained a bad fracture of one limb.

Our tent was a tiny rectangular affair adapted to one person. Further, it was unlined and very leaky at the corners - altogether a poor shelter against the howling storm of wind, rain and hail that swept the summit. We crawled into it - the pastor, my assistant and myself and arranging our belongings with scrupulous economy of space managed to spread our camp beds - eat a cold supper and then entertain visitors. The first to appear was my friend the Kaimakam. What shelter he had secured is an unsolved problem but he appeared unscathed and seating himself in the only available place surveyed us a moment in our cramped and dismally cold and wet quarters and then remarked "Il faut rappeler le grand Livingstone, n'est ce pas?" Odd enough it seemed that this Turkish official should point us to the great British missionary as an example of fortitude and good cheer. His call was a brief one and then we turned in and were just about going to sleep in spite of the cold when caller number two appeared on the scene. If the Kaimakam's rather portly figure had

filled all available floor space in our little shelter tent one might ~~certainly~~ fear that number two would burst through the roof and carry off the whole affair on his shoulders if he should absent mindedly rise to his full height while inside. I had seen him before while on the road and had admired his great stature and well built frame. He could not have been less than six feet three inches in height straight and lithe of form a typical Circassian mountaineer but with something of the manners of civilization gained perhaps while in the government police service. His cartridge holders arranged in the double series of small pockets ~~on~~ on the both breasts, customary with all Circassians, ~~were~~ possessed ~~of~~ engraved silver tips which indicated that he was a man of some ~~prominence~~ wealth. He apologized for the lack of hospitality shown us, pleading the very adequate reason that the earth-quake and not himself was responsible for the chaotic state of affairs.

At least we should have tea he announced - and we did. It came in glass tumblers very hot and very sweet and, as always in this country, ~~without~~ without the cream.

Next day we started for Khanoy the village which in the Akhlat Kaza had suffered most from the earth quake. We found it a wreck with only two or three buildings in habitable condition. The few survivors among the animals were huddled together -

the sheep bleating piteously in the been blast
I was informed that fifteen hundred animals
had perished in this little village. The human
victims numbered forty five. I treated ten wounded
most of the injuries slight and then was called to
see a man who had "feared" as these people say.
He was absolutely unhurt and appeared only stupid
or a little dazed. Sudden death from fright is
not unknown in America but I have never heard
of a case there in which the patient suffered a
fright and then died months later after a progressive
failure in health and strength due to no evident
disease. Such cases occur here frequently if one
is willing to accept native testimony. That all
the population feared in another sense of the word
was evident. No one dared sleep under any shelter
except the rude tents and shanties improvised
from their household goods.

As we left Khaing we parted with the
Kaimakam whose field of responsibility covered only
Akhlat and now we were to enter the Kaza of
Melazgerd - the region of greatest destruction. A
brief time in the saddle brought us to the crest
of the divide whence we could view the great
expanse of plain below. Melazgerd Plain is dotted
with outcropping rocks and we could easily fancy
them to be ruined villages. But nothing of the
dreadful havoc made by the catastrophe was visible

at that distance and instinctively the eye turned to the mountains beyond - snowy Elipan on the extreme right lifting his silver helmet 13700 feet above sea-level. The long white crest of the Ala Dagh, Kertavri Dagh, - Nimrud to the west - and a half dozen more forming a half circle of giant sentinels which faced us as if guarding the great plain below.

Long before we reached the town of Melaggerd we passed through villages whose destruction was complete. Scores of bloated and decomposing dead animals lying at random where they fell or drawn into promiscuous heaps at the outskirts of the villages made the ground hideous and the air nauseous. Our horses were terrified at first but soon became accustomed to the uncanny surroundings. It was sunset when the town of Melaggerd was reached. Months before I had planned a medical tour which should include that place; but under what unexpected conditions I was entering it! We had heard praise of its beauty, its gardens & its fountains and its buildings especially the ancient ruined castle. We found a desolate waste, the houses mere heaps. ~~of stones~~ - scarcely one stone upon another save exceptionally where some well built door-frame remained upright and a dozen hewn stones clustered about it gave evidence of the former existence of a building. In all the place only three structures remained visible above the general level

destruction. One of these was a private house built I was told on the ancient city walls. It remained standing though injured. The second was an ancient caravansary built it is said when the castle itself was constructed. Recently it had been given up to the storage of grain. It remains, a grim skeleton of the olden time - its outlines preserved but its roof partly fallen and walls gaping, yet withal testifying to the better workmanship of the ancient builders who used honest mortar and used it well. The modern buildings in this province, when not of sundried brick or rubble are of a soft hewn stone set block on block a double wall it is true - filled in with mud and stone fragments, ~~but with~~ the blocks held in a pretense of mortar which is really only mud. The blocks too seemed most badly hewn perhaps because they are of ancient date - pulled from the buildings of a former age and made to do duty again and again during the centuries that have elapsed since their preparation. After all the old castle is the only structure worthy of survival and it has survived. The fine new Hamidieh Mosque - the pride of Meloggard is a shapeless heap of stones with a few timbers projecting skyward - the public buildings - the mills, the mosques - the churches, bazaars and dwelling houses - all are razed to the ground and bear not the semblance of a building but above the desolation rise the

ancient fortress towers of well hewn stones set in mortar harder than themselves. I saw a portion of its wall overthrown and lying on the ground but it lay intact each stone welded to its fellow as when the mortar was first laid.

The place was fairly clean and evidently much labor had been expended. The relief work was in charge of the local governor (Muttessarif) of Kaush assisted by the Kaimakam of Adeljivaz. They gave us a cordial welcome and official statistics were given freely on my request. I found the figures very exact but their reliability is somewhat open to question. Reports had reached Bitlis that only one hundred survived out of a total population of two thousand. I was inclined to accept the official statement of deaths 729. until I was convinced by personal observation that the official statement of the number of survivors, 1174, was far too high unless a great exodus had taken place after the catastrophe. But such exodus was denied by the authorities until I pointed out the discrepancy when they admitted that possibly some had left.

Few wounded were being treated and these excepting some broken limbs were of trivial character. The severely wounded mostly died in the ruins.

I was informed that the work of rescue had been an herculean one - a score of men often working on a single dwelling for twelve to twenty-four

hours before a single body could be extracted. Some remarkable cases of survival occurred. One woman whom I saw walking slowly about the city had been taken out the seventh day - that preceding my arrival. Another a woman of seventy years of age was struck down and her arm badly broken. She was taken out of the ruins on the third day and was in good condition when I saw her. Our stay in Melayerd was limited to two days during which time all information possible was gained as to the extent of the damage and the relief afforded by the government. Though unsystematic and perhaps not altogether impartial the distribution of relief was apparently with a sincere purpose to meet the immediate needs of daily bread and to provide cloth for burial as well as a limited number of tents for shelter. As already stated efforts had been made to put the place in sanitary condition with fair success considering the difficulty of the work - but doubtless cremation should have been resorted to instead of burial in trenches so shallow that foul odors were occasionally perceptible rising from them.

We struck camp May 8th and started for Sleik Gaburd in company with the British military doctor - whom I found in charge of the medical relief work. On reaching Sleik Gaburd - for 6 hours distant,

hours before a single body could be extracted. Some remarkable cases of survival occurred. One woman whom I saw walking slowly about the city had been taken out the seventh day - that preceding my arrival. Another a woman of seventy years of age was struck down and her arm badly broken. She was taken out of the ruins on the third day and was in good condition when I saw her. Our stay in Melayerd was limited to two days during which time all information possible was gained as to the extent of the damage and the relief afforded by the government. Though unsystematic and perhaps not altogether impartial the distribution of relief was apparently with a sincere purpose to meet the immediate needs of daily bread and to provide cloth for burial as well as a limited number of tents for shelter. As already stated efforts had been made to put the place in sanitary condition with fair success considering the difficulty of the work - but doubtless cremation should have been resorted to instead of burial in trenches so shallow that foul odors were occasionally perceptible rising from them.

We struck camp May 8th and started for Sheik Yakub in company with the Otto's military doctor - whom I found in charge of the medical relief work. On reaching Sheik Yakub - for 6 hours distant,

we found that it had suffered no special injury beyond a few cracks in some of the buildings notably ~~our~~ protestant school. Sixty victims from the neighboring village of Zeter were buried here and we also found three or four wounded. After the dismal sights and smells of the past few days Sheik Yakub was a haven of rest with its quiet beauty and fresh air. One must not picture to himself anything approaching a New England village on the strength of the adjective beautiful used as above. No Armenian village is worthy of the word. ~~Dear~~ The universal type of architecture is almost identical in appearance with the great ant hills of the African white ant. and these huge mounds are huddled together separated by narrow tortuous streets without a tree or shrub or vine to lessen the glare of the sun or gladden the eye with green. So, Sheik Yakub was not beautiful but its ugliness could not destroy the beauty of the Spring manifested in the outlying fields, nor the charm of the stream on whose banks bordered with trees, the village ~~reposed~~. "God has done much for this country and man little" I remarked to my companion. "No" he said. God has done much and man has done nothing except to spoil this work". A day or two later we visited the little Kurdish village of Baloud where we found several wounded eager for medical attention, returning to our tent again in a sharp storm of hail and rain.

Next morning the start was made for Zeter - a large.

village of 400 houses and a mixed population of Armenians, Circassians and Kurds. We found it almost as utterly wrecked as Melazgerd itself. The walls of the mosque were partially standing but the building was hopelessly shattered as was also the Armenian church. A remarkably fine structure the latter must have been for a village church judging from the carved marble decorations still to be seen standing in part amid the stone heap that once formed its walls. A few moments after our arrival we were treated to a mild earth-quake sufficiently sharp however to be decidedly perceptible even while standing. I have observed on numerous occasions that earth tremors which are not perceived while one is standing or walking are still very evident to one sitting or lying down. This one was peculiar in that it was an audible shock - a sensation affecting the ear as well as the equilibrium of one's body - altogether like an explosion of dynamite some distance underground. The survivors of in Melazgerd reported that the earth quake there consisted of three tremendous vertical impulses - upheavals which simply tossed the buildings upward. The shock as we felt it in Bitlis was a prolonged lateral tremor but I do not doubt the statement as to Melazgerd. Everything observable about the ruins there favored the idea of an upheaval rather than a horizontal tremor. An interesting fact observed in our journey is, that within the stricken district - the snow drifts were fissured and seamed in all directions

file elsewhere they were smooth and unbroken.
We found that Zeter had borne the brunt of the shock in the Bulanik Plain. Two hundred and fifty lives were lost of which 121 were Armenians. Nearly a thousand head of cattle perished in this village. Dead animals were lying about unburied and the condition generally was most unsanitary. We treated the surviving wounded and passed on to the Bercassian village of Garamish for the night - a night of woful sleeplessness due to the howling of innumerable dogs as they feasted on the dead animals whose bloated carcases had offended our eyes and poisoned the air on our arrival.
Garamish was worse than Zeter though happily a much smaller village. Here again we found a few wounded more or less ~~well~~ cared for by the military physicians. Next day we returned to Zeter for I felt that our hasty visit had been insufficient to properly observe the condition of the place the extent of relief work etc. We found a few more wounded awaiting treatment and then we turned homeward stopping for the night in the mixed Bercassian and Armenian village of Hulig. Here we were again outside the area of the severe earthquake shock, but never-the-less considerable property had been destroyed and several Bercassian houses built of bare stone and plastered within similarly to the best houses of Bitlis

were badly shattered. The Armenian ant hills seemed to have suffered less than their more pretentious neighbors.

A motley crowd of men women and children awaited medical attention but only one was a victim of the earth-quake and his injury merely a bruised finger.

The world was beautiful again in Tulig and the profusion of wild flowers and mountain springs gushing cold water that needed no boiling to ward off disease, were rejuvenators fully appreciated by our wearied and disgusted eyes and ears.

Next morning saw us on our way to Tadvan which is only five slow hours from Bitlis. Soon we found ourselves in company with four Circassian horsemen. They were from Sara Dawood, one of the Melazgerd villages which had suffered the loss of more than half its population. "Yes" said one "We have suffered. there are 117 dead in our village and only 108 living - our cattle are gone; the few which survived the earth-quake are being stolen by the Kurds for we have no shelter either for ourselves or them; - and yet - for our sins our punishment is indeed light. God has dealt to us less than we deserve." It was a confession worth pondering, especially as he was by no means the only sufferer to say so. It is reported that twelve Kurdish horsemen stopped at Melazgerd the night of Apr. 28th intending to begin a cattle raid among the Christian population of the villages on the morrow.

Their tomorrow never dawned. It is ~~widely~~ believed among the natives that a wide spread disturbance was planned for the early summer but was cut off by this visitation of God. True or not as these and other rumors may be one cannot view the desolation without pondering its possible moral lessons. "The mills of God grind slowly but they grind exceeding small; though he is patience He stands waiting with exactness grinds He all". Yet the rascals that remain are as great as those that perished - ay, in man's judgment the very chiefest still survive. And the innocent also suffered and the poor dumb brutes. It is the lesson of the Tower of Siloam but involving the death of about 2700 men instead of 18.

Dr Underwood
Betts

Bitlis

Received August 3, 1903

7. C'nople advices make even the three station meeting impossible this year.

Bitlis, July 4th 1903.

BOS'D AUG 3 1903

Rev. James L. Barton,
Boston Mass. U.S.A.

ABS'D AUG 7 1903

Dear Doctor Barton:- I enclose herewith an account of the recent trip to the earthquake stricken district of Melazgerd. If it be of sufficient interest for publication please use it either in the Herald or elsewhere together with the photographs accompanying it. If need be cut it down as you see fit. Immediately on my return I sent a brief account to Mr. Peet which was rather a report than a detailed narrative. Perhaps through him you have already learned the main facts. A little later we may begin some relief work but the government is still ostensibly meeting all needs and is doing some rebuilding at least in Melazgerd so we plan to wait a little till our work shall supplement theirs. One hundred liras has been sent us from C'nople and the English Consul has also recd a like sum for distribution. To properly meet rebuilding expenses an immense sum is needful but government officials reported the receipts for relief at over 200,000 piastres some time ago most of which should be available for rebuilding since from all accounts the bread supplied immediately after the disaster was a levy on the villages of the region round about.

For Dr. Barton
Underwood
Bitlis

The visit of Prof. and Mrs. J. R. Harris of Cambridge, Eng. last month was a delight to us all and his generous aid financially of great help. He was deeply impressed with the necessity of industrial training for the orphans and gave £. 100 to that specific work. I regard this as particularly important both for the orphans and school-boys. Present political conditions make it especially difficult to employ them as teachers or preachers and a mere book learning awakens them to the situation and arouses ambitions which cannot be followed. It is not strange then that they turn toward America or else become interested in things too unwise and dangerous to be written about. I believe that even a rudimentary industrial work would be helpful as a diversion and a thorough practical training would go far toward insuring them a livelihood.

Mr. Harris also gave 20 £. to the medical work - a much needed help. Though the general annual meeting hoped for this year is impossible we still count on Engroum Van and Bithz getting together and the medical work will be reported at that time. Meantime I mention the following facts: Balance on hand cash £. 25. (not including Prof. Hs. donation). Total number of patients seen. Jan 1st to May 31st incl. 1225. Number of new cases 422.

Faithfully yours
H. L. Underwood.

P.S. If you do not deem it best to publish the Melazgird report please send it to the church in S. Norwalk, Conn. which contributes to our support. If published send them a copy - also a copy to Rev. F. T. Bayley. Denver. Colo. and Rev. Albert L. Smalley Jamestown New York.

Bittle, Finley 4, 1903

REC'D NOV 28 1903

Ans'd DEC 3 1903

Bitlis, Turkey. Oct.24th.03.

Ans'd DEC 3 1903

Rev. J.L.Barton,D.D.
14 Beacon St.
Boston.

Dear Doctor Barton:- It is some time since the receipt of your letter telling me that you had received my account of the trip to Melazgerd. I had intended to write before but circumstances prevented. The article was intended to be of popular interest and was not written as a report. For permanent filing,which you mention, a report which I sent Mr.Peet immediately on my return. contains more information and in less space. The earth-quake trip necessitated postponing the medical tour which I had planned. or rather-it was one of several reasons: the visit of Prof.Harris and Mrs.Harris,and Mr.Coles journey to Erzroum coming in quick succession. I had anticipated an extensive tour this autumn in Moush Plain the Bulanik and possibly Khinous but Mr.Cole advised omitting the distant parts of the field on account of the political condition so in company with Miss Mary Ely I started for Moush Sept.15th.

Only a few days after reaching Moush and when my work there was but fairly begun, I was taken with typhoid fever. It seemed best to try and return to Bitlis. I found a moffa an impossibility so resorted to a box supported by poles and carried by natives. After reaching B there followed a sharp but fortunately short illness and I am now convalescent but so debilitated that it will be long before I can do much work. While in this personal vein I may as well say that most of the time since coming here I have suffered more or less from malaria and do not recuperate under medication very well. Have not enjoyed the feeling of American"strenuousness" as formerly. Doubtless this and the fact that I was in daily contact with an unusual number of typhoid patients before starting for Moush accounts for the infection ,though Dr.Reynolds' horror of that dirty city leads him to assume that Moush gave me the disease. Thus one more plan for a tour has failed. I am the more disappointed because as I wrote you soon after arrival here, the work of this vilayet is naturally a touring work pre-eminently. Indeed I fear that medical work in Bitlis alone can hardly justify my residence here. True, I have been fully occupied with medical work except when snowed in as last winter, but the work is mainly such as the native doctors seem qualified for. Speaking broadly it is the out-siders that need me and as I have previously written. it is not easy for them to come to B. The need there is large enough the poverty stricken Armenian villagers of the plains,the towns of some size such as Khinous, Gop, and Moush where there are many people but no qualified doctors;and finally, the Kurdish and Circassian villages in the mountainous districts. The misery of the Armenian villagers is most pathetic and one is drawn to do whatever is possible for them. But as

a militant work I feel most interested in the Circassians. During the Melazgerd trip I came into close relations with some of them. One prominent Circassian bey living between Moush and Erzroum came to Bitlis this summer. He had started for Russia but hearing of a foreign doctor in Bitlis came to consult me. It proved to be a stone in the bladder. I performed an operation and removed it and two weeks later he went home rejoicing. This patient, who paid me twenty liras, is the only pay case I have had in the hospital. He is said to have been a notorious robber formerly, and chief of a band which robbed caravans most systematically.

On my broaching the subject of robbery one day he described with evident relish the way in which high-waymen (he did not say himself.) would bind a man hand and foot pitch him one side and make off with the spoil. During his convalescence when his attendants were occasionally present in force my embryo hospital looked like a rendezvous for brigands so numerous were the knives revolvers and weapons of various sorts.

On his departure I said to him,-"I have had many patients very near to death but I have never had one as near as you have been. (he nearly died under the anesthetic) "It is God who has given you back your life, 'do not forget Him." "That is true, that is true" he said as he passed out.

I would very much like your advice as to attempting any presentation of the Gospel to Moslem patients. These people are virgin soil and of a type far above the average Kurd. It is this perhaps that gives me a special interest in them.

Last post in writing to Mr. Wiggin I touched upon a matter which should perhaps come rather to you. When Mr. Peet began to press for recognition of our institutions by the government he wrote me that he had included among them a hospital in Bitlis, and advised me if I had none to start something at once. In response to this I enlarged my facilities a bit in order to meet the government's definition of a XXXXX hospital; but limited expenses as much as possible so that at present it consists of two rooms-in one of which I have partitioned off an operating room. The rooms are of course in the second story. Two small lower rooms serving for storage of fuel etc. Much improvement is necessary before satisfactory surgical work can be done. The bare walls, unsealed, and earth floor are a menace to clean surgery. Thus you will see that some money is needed not only to maintain what exists at present but to gradually improve its condition. Now according to the hand-book all medical income above expenses for medicines etc. is to be credited each year to the Board. If I conform to this my hospital will have to be drained. What do you advise? Of course, drugs, instruments, hospital equipment and all are Board property; but any small cash balance which may chance to remain at the close of the year will be urgently needed. Indeed I have feared a deficit rather than a balance on hand. This is not the part of Turkey for money-making excepting in rare cases such as I have described.

We have been hoping - Mrs.U. perhaps even more than I - that Mr. Cole's plan for his daughter's temporary residence here might be realized. He tells me that you suggest that she come as a permanent helper duly appointed. If so of course she would sooner or later be associated with the Misses Ely in the work of the girls'school. They feel strongly disinclined to accept anybody while there is even a remote possibility of Miss Knapp's return: and if Mr.C's daughter should come her work would be in the orphanage and assisting her father in the general work.not in the girls' school however willing she might be to teach. The orphanage is not a permanent institution and needs no permanent worker.

Mrs.Cole's health is not very good and Mr.C has at times thought seriously of having her go to America,not to return. If Miss Nellie should come it would end the consideration of that undesirable contingency and prove of the greatest benefit to her mother beside lessening her considerable burden of mission work. As I understand Mr.C, no money would be expended by the Board except for her travelling expenses here.

In the present short-handedness here it strikes me favorably aside from health and other personal considerations affecting Mrs. Cole.

Yours sincerely

H. G. Underwood.

P.S. The ink pad of my machine (an old Blickensderfer) persists in striking the paper. Kindly excuse blots.

Brussels Oct 24/1903

Mr. Clemens.

Permit me to thank you most heartily for the photographs in which the figures really seem real.

Herbert L. Underwood, M.D.
220
Rec'd DEC 21 1903 Ans. DEC 23 1903

Bitlis, Turkey, Nov 24-03

Dear Doctor Barton:- Yours of Oct. 29th just received and I have only a few moments in which to reply before the post must be in.

Before this reaches you, doubtless you will have received the letter giving information as to the medical work in Bitlis. As I am still not actively engaged in medical work after my illness I am taking the opportunity to invoice stock and hope soon to send in an annual report to supplement the statement just sent.

I have no words to adequately thank the donor of the 20 £t. which you speak of forwarding. It comes most opportunely to meet the loss to the medical work caused

Bitlis Oct. 24, 1903

by my attack of typhoid fever and the resulting weakness and prolonged disability. This gift together with ten pounds sterling offered me by our English vice-consul for the medical work a few days ago, comes as a lesson and a rebuke for I confess to have been in some despondency about the loss in receipts and extra expense of a fruitless tour. If a personal letter to the donor of this gift is desirable I shall be most glad to send it to him otherwise please express to him my warmest thanks. We expect to move soon to another house and considerable labor and expense will be needed to fit up the new dispensary. But of this I will write more soon.

Sincerely yours

H. G. Underwood.

221
221
Rec'd MAY 11 1904

Bitlis. April 16th. 1904.

James L. Barton. DD.

Ans'd JUN 10 1904

Boston. Mass..

U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Barton:- Your letter of March 7. rec'd about ten days ago. I am glad to know that the year's report strikes you as being a favorable one, notwithstanding the small number of surgical cases. Thank you for the good wishes for the little son who came three months ago. Dr. and Mrs. Atkinson whose acquaintance we made while in Paris. write that they envy us the possession of two youngsters of our own. Since my last letter, the new vali has arrived. Mr. Cole and I both received a call from him, and, so far, he impresses us favorably. In energy and fearlessness, he greatly excels his predecessor and withal, seems really friendly.

A few weeks ago we made a change of location, and the new dispensary rooms though still a bit cramped are far superior to the poorly lighted basement in use hitherto. We now have the office and drug room separate, the latter serving also for patients who are reasonably clean, while an upper hall into which both open serves for those who are dirty and ragged. This is a social distinction which I did not make last year, but it seems necessary and may be a hint to cultivate cleanliness. All this on the second floor, and well lighted. On the third floor are two rooms, and these will serve as operating room and ward until the surgical work developes considerably.

One of the orphans has begun work in the drug-room. and I hope to ake a druggist of him some day. With my former assistant still with e the medical employes number two. Reports from Miss Knapp are so favorable that we anticipate hearing before long something concerning her possible return. Aside from personal and family considerations, the question will depend on the judgment of her physician: for doubtless the mission vote would be favorable. As Bitlis has the altitude of Denver he may conclude that the climate is equally favorable, which is not the case. Greater humidity and above all malaria make it bad for pulmonary cases here. As a matter of fact the amount of consumption and tuberculosis in other forms here is astounding. much greater than I found in central New York.

I think you will be interested in the inclosed map of our field though you may have access to a better one on the same scale. I believe that on studying it you will be struck as I have been with the following conditions.- 1- That the field lying to the south of the Murad Su and north of the Kandash and Zirzina D.(the range that strikes in toward the extremity of Lake Van) is a magnificent one. 2. That it is most easily accessible from Mush.
3. That Bitlis is not favorably placed to work it. being south of the range.(especially in view of the heavy snow fall which makes travel hazardous for the strong and impossible for the weak or sick during at least five months of the year.) 4. That. failing Mush-which is unhealthy- the lake itself is by far the most favorable entrance to

H. A. Underwood

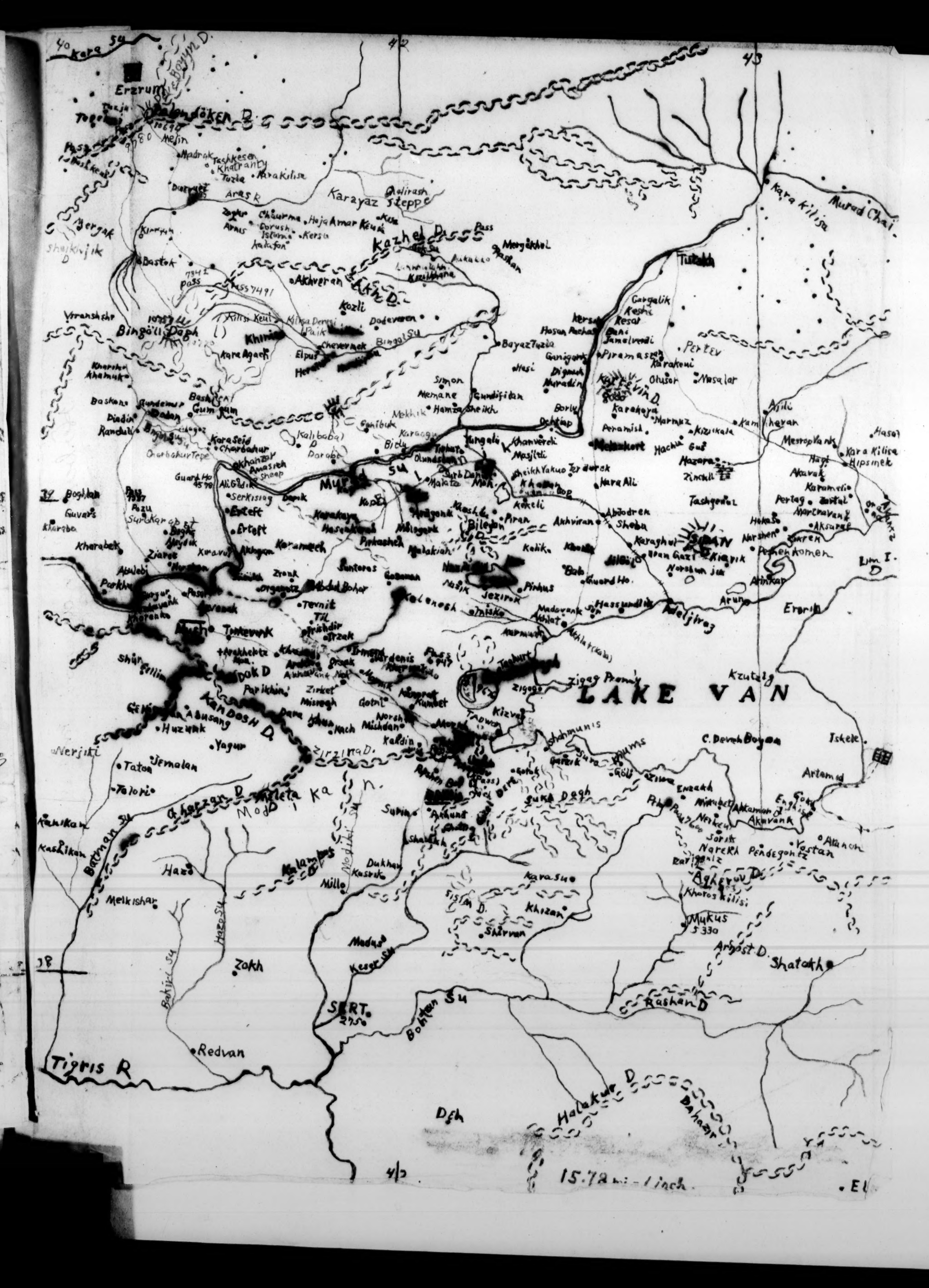
the whole field. or rather it would be if transportation on the lake were better. I believe this applies to the general work but even more to the medical work, for the latter includes not only the Armenia centers of Mush Plain and the Bulanik but also the Plain of Melazgerd and the villages around the lake shore. There are about thirty of these close to the shore and about one hundred within a ten mile limit from its margin(perhaps others not mapped.) I am aware of the old plan by which it was sought to unite Van and Bitlis stations with a steam launch. I confess the idea strikes me as theoretically correct but the steamer was. I am told of only 4 horse power. !! A Good plan for administrative economy was swamped by parsimonious engineeringsurely.

Political conditions are unfavorable at present for the gov't to give permission for a launch but it is worth working for. I would like your thoughtful consideration of the plan bearing in mind that it in no way contemplates giving up Bitlis as a center but to help the medical work overcome the difficulty in which it is placed by the unfavorable location of Bitlis for hospital work. It would be primarily perhaps a medical arm but would certainly aid the general work of both stations. If. in time it should clearly develope that the whole field could be worked satisfactorily from Van with a gain in administrative economy we ought to all welcome consolidation. But that the future would decide.

Sincerely yours

H. G. Underwood.

Herbert L. Underwood, M.D.
Bitlis, April 16, 1904


Erzrum
Karayaz steppe
Kara Kilisa
Murad Chai
Kazhel D.
Akhveran
Bingöll Dagh
Bingol Su
Kozli
Dodeveren
Bayaz Tuzla
Tuzlakh
Perkev
Kuchevin D.
Melankert
Mus
Bilejan
Akhviran
Shoba
Hasskundik
Adeljivaz
Arung
Erzrum
LAKE VAN
Kizvan
Tadvan
Shahmunis
C. Devreh Boyun
Iskele
Artamid
Akhvank
Sukh Dagh
Mod i Kaiyn.
Batman Su
Kasikan
Haz
Melkishar
Zakh
Millo
Dukhan
Kasrik
Sirvan
Khizan
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5330
Arbost D.
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Rashan D
SERT.
275
Bohtan Su
Redvan
Tigris R
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Bahasr
Dsh
15.72 mi = 1 inch.

Herbert C. Underwood, M.D.
Bittis, April 16, 1904

Erzerum
Karayaz steppe
Kara Kilisa
Murad Chai
Kazhel D.
Akhlat D.
Bingöl Dagh
Mush
Tatvan
LAKE VAN
Kzutelg
Zigag Promy
Kizvan
Tadvan
Kamdosh D.
Zirzima D.
Mod D.
Batman Su
Hazo
Zakh
Redvan
Tigris R
SERT
Bohtan Su
Rashan D.
Shatakh
Argost D.
Aghrovu D.
Khizan
Sharvan
Sisian D.
Karasu
Mukus
Khoros Kilisi
Nareki
Pendegoitz
Vostan
Akhvrank
Akhlat
Bitlis
Tashgedul
Hasan Ocharsi
Bayaz Tuzla
Tuzla
Erzerum
Mezin
Madrak
Tashkesen
Khatranty
Tuzla
Arakilise
Aras R
Bastok
Akhveran
Kozli
Dodevran
Khinis
Elpus
Chevermek
Bingol Su
Kare Agach
Kersa
Hasan Ochasi
Gargalik
Keshi
Resat
Janelvedi
Piramasen
Karakeni
Nasalar
Otusor
Karakoya
Marmuz
Kizikala
Hachu
Gus
Hazara
Zinchli
Mezropvank
Kara Kilisa
Hipsinek
Akarak
Karumelio
Pertag
Zartal
Marchavank
Aksurek
Hakaso
Narshen
Zarek
Pesnek Komen
Lim I.
Arinkap
Arunu
Erzrum
Hasskundik
Adeljivaz
Madavank
Akhlat
Tashkhurt
Ziggo
Kizvan
Shahmunis
Sura
Gölü
Gatzik
Sukka Dagh
Enzakh
Mirkhet
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Nerkeh
Sorsik
Nareki
Pendegoitz
Vostan
Atanon
Akhvrank
Iskele
Artamid
C. Devek Boyun
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Jemalan
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Sunna
Shamkh
Dukhan
Kasrik
Millo
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Kesgr Su
Bakirli Su
Hazo Su
Batman Su
Halakur D.
Dahazir
Dsh
Elk
15.72 mi - 1 inch.
4/2

Rec'd JUN 20 1904 222

Erzroum, Turkey. May 28th 04.

Rev. James L. Barton D.D.
Boston, Mass.
U.S.A.

ANS'D JUL 28 1904

Dear Doctor Barton:- Mr. Cole has ere this I believe sent you a copy of the mission vote regarding our coming to Erzroum for the summer. The emergency was such that we did not consider it advisable to wait for the result of the vote but came on as soon as weather and necessary preparations allowed. Mr. Cole is sending you something about the general situation here so far as we can know it. I feel that it is equally urgent that I write briefly concerning the missionary personnel. Two years ago I wrote you during a tour with Mr. Cole something of the great need of an associate for him. He is past the age when touring is safe under the inevitable conditions here i.e. Horse-back travel, stable accommodations, exposure to cold and wet and poor native food. He simply is unable to stand it. True then it is even more true now. However there has been decided change for the worse in the political situation which makes it

impossible for him or anyone else, however sound in health, to carry on work in the field - either evangelistic or even medical.

Mr. Cole, too, intensely sympathetic as he is and quick to feel the distress of others, finds the strain of current events hard to bear and one can easily see that it is telling on him. Mrs. Cole's health is far from good and our enforced absence will add still further to the loneliness she feels. Dr. Barton, they are nearly worn out. As to the desirability of keeping up the station it is of course not my business to speak but if it is to be kept up reinforcements are needed immediately. Yet one would hesitate to ask a young man with his life work before him to come to Bethel, especially if married. Affairs are incomparably worse than 15 years ago - steadily becoming darker and with every prospect humanly speaking of political disturbances which will prevent evangelistic work for years to come. Educational work in the villages is increasingly restricted and ineffective, preaching well nigh impossible.

I wished to hold a simple religious service

at the village where we spent the sabbath en route here but it involved too much risk to the house-owner. To come to personal matters Mrs. H's. health has been threatened by the nervous strain of the past two years. The past year especially and needs a change only less than our little girl for whose health we have come. I dare not take her to Bitlis within a year - perhaps not then if the situation continues as it is. Our little girl cannot go back for an indefinite time.

Notwithstanding my unfavorable medical report for 1903 and the increasing conviction (in which Mr. Peale shares) that Bitlis is not a favorable location for a hospital, we had decided after prayer for guidance to remain another year and await the leading of God in the matter.

But the sudden illness of our little girl, the clear evidence that she cannot be well in Bitlis for a long time to come - the serious hindrance to my work caused by panics throughout the vilayet seem clear signs of the need of a change. May I ask your thoughts as to my locating in Erzroum. The conditions here appear favorable and I trust the summer's work will throw light on the matter.

But let me close with another appeal for Mr. Beale. He cannot hold the post much longer.

We arrived yesterday after a journey unusually trying because of mud, rain, cold in company with 40 Armenians who go to America ~~to~~ Bitlis. They are very grateful for our protection on the road and we were glad to afford it but I confess it is hard to see the people go - the best of them. The deacon of our church is soon to come also.

Sincerely yours
H. G. Underwood

Rev. H. G. Underwood, Mod. Sec. Underwood & Underwood, New York, May 28, 1908.

Rec'd SEP 19 1904
Ans'd SEP 22 1904

Erzroum. Aug. 27th 1904.

Dear Doctor Barton:- The disastrous fire (the second this year for unfortunate Erzroum) by which the boys School was entirely destroyed this morning caused me considerable loss also. Practically all my surgical instruments and supplies and the small stock of medecines brought from Bitlis are a total loss aggregating somewhere about $400.00. I am the more pained at the loss because the opening for medical work here has appeared particularly promising among the Moslems - far more so than in Bitlis and as the location is topographically (as well as in other respects) far more favorable here than in Bitlis I hoped to test its advantages as a location for a hospital. Mr. Stapleton has doubtless written you the details. The fire started or at least was discovered between 6 and 7 a. m. ~~this m.~~ today. The cause is difficult to determine. As the Persians celebrated the Shah's birthday last night and Mr. Stapleton was aware that fireworks would be used he took the precaution to have several watchmen in the new girls school building which is partially reconstructed and in process of completion. This seemed wise as the building is adjacent to the Persian consulate and in point of fact - the men report that they extinguished rockets etc several times during the night, which had fallen upon the building. The boys school is further away and it did not occur to either of us to set a guard there, especially as the building is occupied by one of the teachers

and his family. Reports are current that fireworks ~~caused~~ set fire to the building but nothing definite can be known thus far. One woman is reported to have seen a rocket enter the attic window and whatever the cause the fire evidently began in the attic or immediately under the roof.

My medical assistant has slept in the rooms where were stored my medical and surgical outfit (utilized also as a dispensary and operating room) but for a few days past - having been unwell in the city I allowed him to come to our summer camp to sleep. Had he been there doubtless he could have saved my instruments if not the building. His personal effects (clothing etc except his bed) were burned. Mrs. Underwood and I lost some clothing used in travelling and miscellaneous articles. The Bible Society's publications and many books belonging to Mr. Stapleton were also lost! The building is a total wreck only the front wall (which was built in lime) remaining. May I ask your advice in regard to a new set of surgical instruments and supplies? I believe they were insured only in transit but am not sure. Please enlighten me on that point also on what expedients the Board will authorize me to employ in replacing the loss; or is it a matter for a special grant in aid? I believe that I am not allowed to solicit contributions without express permission from the Prudential Committee.

Your kind letter of July 28th is at hand. I thank you for the kind wishes expressed therein. Our little girl, after a prolonged period of inanition following her malarial attacks is

quite herself again. In fact I have never seen her so well. Mrs. H. is also in better health. The nervous strain was so great for her that I greatly feared a breakdown in Bitlis. I too am in better health than at any time since reaching Turkey. What you say in regard to a possible opening in Diarbekir though of course not a definite proposition has turned my thoughts in that line. I fear that residence there is out of the question during part of the year but that could be adjusted by Mrs. H. and the children's living in Harpoot part of the time, perhaps. Dr. Atkinson has mentioned in one of his letters that if the Board decides to accept the legacy it will be two years before the institution can be built. Perhaps the greatest objection in my mind is to be inferred from the phrase - "a hospital for Armenians". If exclusively for them I do not feel that in entering upon that work I would be fulfilling my duty as a medical missionary. The missionary work is unjustly under a shadow throughout the empire because of its being in the eyes of the govt. a work for Armenians solely. It seems to me that any thing which gives good reason for such a view is undesirable. Above all it seems to me that medical work should be oblivious of differences of race, religion or language. And further - inasmuch as our only access to the Moslems is through that work it is impolitic to close the only door of communication with them. I am a bit dazed amid the confusion attending the fire or I would

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write further on this point and I may be able also a little later to touch upon the political situation as it affects our work. It is a sinister influence always and just now an abomination. Such reports as appeared in the "Christian Herald" recently are infamous misrepresentations which the Turks may justly consider libelous and which react against us.

Hoping for an early reply on the points touching the medical dept. I remain

Faithfully yours

H. H. Underwood.

P.S. Mr. Stapleton will write in detail next week

In brief – Boys school destroyed
No lives lost
Book room contents – a total loss.
Medical supplies – instruments etc
a total loss – (about $2400)
General contents saved.

The fire spread so quickly that the 2d floor contents could not be saved.

Fortunately the boys were in camp.

Engineers,
Aug 2, 1944

SEP 26 1904

Erzroum, Sept. 5th 1904

Rev. J. L. Barton
Boston
Mass.

Dear Doctor Barton:- My hasty letter of Aug 27th written the day of the fire, you will have probably received before this reaches you, as also the detailed account sent by Mr. Stapleton a little later. My first estimate of the loss to the medical work was $400.00. It is only fair to add to this figure the cost of transportation and the 8 o/o. customs duties which were paid at the coast. This would bring the figure up to nearly $500.00. In view of my leaving within another month or two it will be impossible for me to secure a fresh outfit in time for further work here and my future field is so problematical that I do not care to have goods consigned to Bitlis - especially as the winter there will block pretty effectually anything beyond city calls. Therefore I am ordering from London a very few essential instruments to come via parcel post. Partly from curiosity partly from the hope of saving a few things from utter loss I have dug up from the ashes a large number of the burned instruments but they are ruined. I would not value the whole at half a lira.

As mentioned in a previous letter it is arranged that I shall escort the Yarrows and Miss Cole

to Van and Bitlis respectively. I had planned to go first to Van and then to Bitlis but in a letter just recd. from ~~Melaggerd~~ Mr. Cole he objects to this on account of disturbed conditions in Melazgerd and Agants through which we would pass on the way to Van. I am investigating the matter which concerns an alleged rising among the Kamidehs and will also write to Dr. Reynolds to obtain his opinion.

In the previous letter I hinted that the situation here is not a one sided affair of oppressor and oppressed but that the govt. is justified in taking stringent measures against a constantly increasing revolutionary influence. That some four thousand men were killed in Sasun seems pretty well settled but Capt. Tyrell, the English consul at Van, reports after a personal investigation there that they fell in fair fight with arms in their hands. Not all doubtless were avowed revolutionists - enlisted as such, but by harboring such and in indirect ways made themselves obnoxious to the authorities. The government is to be credited with saving the women and children to a large degree - bringing them so far as they would come down into the plain for safety. But they bungled the affair so badly that the real agitators (who were chiefly from the Caucasus) escaped altogether, and the govt's original intention to establish a military post there to keep order appears to have been abandoned. If they do not do so, doubtless

the affair will have to be repeated in a few years. It is a difficult matter to determine who is a revolutionist and who is not among a people every man of whom is in sympathy with the agitators and the government is not averse to solving the difficulty on occasion by reckoning them all rebels. "As a man thinketh in his heart so is he". they might quote.

But it is not merely a question of subduing a rebellion. The problem is deeper than that. It is also the problem of the dominant race continuing to hold in subjection one which is commercially and industrially superior to themselves. ~~Such a~~ Subjection under such conditions is necessarily one of force and even the massacres so far as they have governmental sanction are merely barbarous methods of keeping the dominant but inferior class in power. The commercial beaness of the Armenian cuts himself as well as the other fellow.

The question ~~of~~ might be asked - Why this commercial and industrial superiority of the Armenian. To a large extent it is an inbred racial trait just as in the Jew and probably for the same reason i.e. the oppression of many centuries. But in its better aspects the superiority has its roots, I believe, in the greater social freedom of the Armenian woman as compared with the Turkish women and above all in the Christian religion - even in its perverted form. A certain Turkish official told an

acquaintance of mine as follows - "We need two things in order to improve the government) we need the Christian religion and we need to allow unveiling of the women and both are impossible". Add to this the disturbing element of wild Kurdish tribes which an inefficient government is unwilling or unable to control, and the difficulties incident to the isolation and inaccessibility of the wilder regions and one may well be disheartened at the outlook even giving all possible credit to good motives on either side.

I have just received a letter from Mr. Peet in which he urges that I settle on some place with a view to engaging in hospital work and expresses the opinion that if I have found Erzroum a more desirable and promising field there should be no objection to settling here. I have been pleased with the outlook for a hospital here and have hesitated to definitely locate only because of the feeling that the Mission should decide what point is most promising. But Mr. Peet rightly emphasizes in his letter that now is the best time in view of recent diplomatic concessions and I am tempted to establish something like a permanent work here, trusting to the assent of the mission. After the severe blow to the medical work on account of the fire it will be impossible to go near the expense of making a start unless I can count on its being a permanency.

Once established - doubtless - if necessary I would spend part of my time in Bitlis if the situation there should demand it. But I agree with Mr. Peet that now is the time to get a start - on paper if not actually equipped hospital, in full blast.

Kindly advise me on this matter.

Various small affairs are constantly occurring near Bitlis between Kurds, Soldiers and rens. but the city itself remains quiet except for general fear, occasional closing of the bazaars etc. The destructive fire in the market there you have doubtless heard about. Loss about £1,500. All the consuls as well as the missionaries anticipate more trouble next year.

Sincerely yours

H. G. Underwood.

Erzroom: Turkey
Sept 5 - 1904

225

Rec'd NOV 10 1904

Erzeroum, Turkey, Oct. 16th. 1904.

Dear Friends:-

To you who are interested in Missions the sad news has doubtless already come, of the burning of the Boys School in Erzeroum the twenty-seventh of last August. Already we have received many expressions of sympathy for the loss of this fine building; but many are unaware of the heavy loss on its contents-particularly to the medical work.

Circumstances of which I need not speak, have compelled a change of residence from Bitlis to Erzeroum; and from the first of June until the fire, medical work was carried on in rooms fitted up for the purpose in the Boys School. A great number of patients came for consultation and we were particularly encouraged by the large number of Moslems, who generally are especially averse to surgical operations. Practically all of our surgical outfit and about forty dollars worth of medecines were inthe building at the time of the fire and were lost. Most of our medecines, fortunately were in Bitlis but the loss not-withstanding aggregates more than four hundred dollars, including transportation and customs charges, nearly $500. Is this a total loss? may be asked. A large number of the burned instruments have been dug out of the ashes and we find that fifteen or twenty may be so repaired as to be serviceable. but the amount thus saved is so small that we are justified in considering the loss as total. It is particularly hard to have the medical work brought to a stand-still just at this juncture

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when , had we the means, we would take advantage of the present favorable relations between the United States and Turkey to build build a hospital and increase our influence. Alittle later it may not be so easy of accomplishment. Letters from Constantinople urge immediate re- establishment :and conditions here are indeed favorable for an extensive hospital work.

Erzroum is the most important inland city of Eastern Turkey and the center of trade for a wide area. Its position on the main caravan route to Persia, its situation in an accessible plain, the conveniences of transportation by carriage and ox-cart, all make it a favorable place for a hospital. The various races, discordant as they are in many respects, are open in a peculiar way to the influence of medical work; and if a hospital could be established hereits influence for good would be incalculable -not only for the physical relief afforded;but for its unifying atmosphere in the midst of this collection of Turks, Armenians, Greeks, Kurds and Persians. Most important of all in a hospital it would be possible to reach the Moslemsin with the Gospel to an extentunattainable by any other method/

e In view of this it is particularly hard to have our preparatory work crippled by a stroke such as this.

I am authorized by the Prudential Committee to make this statement of our loss as an appeal to friends who may be interested in missions generally and especially to those of my acquaintance who because of membership and fellowship in the same church in the years past, may have peculiar interest in our work. Contributions should be sent to the Treasurer of the Board, with statement thatthe money is to re-imburse this particular loss. Above all whether you can give much , or little or none at all, please join in prayer with us that from this serious lossthe work may find a new and larger growth.

Yours in Christian service
H. G. Underwood

Erzroom, Turkey

Oct. 16. 1904

Rec'd NOV 10 1904

Rev. Jas. L. Barton D.D. Erzroum, Oct. 18-04.
Boston
Mass.

Ans'd NOV 10 1904

Dear Doctor Barton:- Your letter of Sept. 23d just recd. and I have immediately written something in the nature of a plea for contributions. I have not a wide circle of acquaintances but will do the best I can. Enclosed is a copy which I hope will meet your approval. Mr. Stapleton's type-writer is a very old one and I am quite unfamiliar with it as you will guess from the appearance of the enclosure.

You mention Dr. Thom's suggestion that he and Dr. Atkinson jointly have the management of the Diarbekir hospital How well that will meet the requirements permanently depends somewhat I should think, upon their other work allowing them sufficient leisure. It is certainly a difficult problem to manage two hospitals at the same time but not impossible if one is in charge of a good local physician. It might be more satisfactory if instead of acting together in its management they each take charge alternately But local circumstances and their own preference

could decide that. On the whole the suggestion seems a good one. Diarbekir, Mardin, and Harpoot are relatively close together and to place a missionary doctor in each of the three - while, perhaps, not inadvisable from the point of view of the possibilities of the field - is perhaps a bit prodigal of a rather scant commodity. Then, too, the fields (outside the respective cities) would not be large or if so would overlap.

Were the country as thickly populated as Lebanon it would be quite another matter.

You will note that in the enclosed appeal I ~~speak~~ write as if permanently located here. Whatever may be decided upon permanently I think that there is no question that Erzroum should have a hospital. The conditions here are as favorable as they are unfavorable in Bitlis and while here it seems best to work for one and then if it be deemed best that I go elsewhere at least it will not be time lost.

Thank you for the kind words of your letter and for your proposal to advertise the loss to the medical work in the Herald with a plea for re-imbursement. A statement on page 17 of the Handbook would indicate that surgical instruments which are Board property are insured. How about it?

Cordially yours
H. L. Underwood.

(over)

P.S. Miss Cole is with Miss Lord and Miss Foo
The party in charge of Mr. Stapleton is no
enroute, doubtless, for Cayenne where we
expect them to arrive next Monday. Mis
Cole and I will have a late start for Bitt
but the delay seems to have been unavoidable.

Yd. Ad.

Cayenne, Tuesday
Oct. 18, 1904.

Ans'd DEC 17 190

Bitlis, Nov. 8th. 1904.

Ans'd DEC 28 1904

Dear Friends of the Eastern Turkey Mission ;-

In view of the mis-understand ing which seems to have arisen regarding my future field of work, it seems desirable that I make a full statement of my purpose in coming to Turkey and the circumstances which lead me to desire a change of station in order that you may have the necessary facts in mind in considering the request with which this letter closes. I trust that you will give it a patient perusal for the question is a most vital one to me, at least.

First, then , as to my purpose in coming to a mission field:- My purpose was to obey what seems to me to have been the call of God to witness for Him in a non-Christian land. The particular work for which I was led to prepare was that of a missionary physician. In certain lands and in pioneer work in a new field the missionary doctor may need to be, now a doctor now a teacher now a carpenter etc. but I think you will agree with me that as a rule we should abide in the calling pointed out in the beginning as our particular work, taking care, always that our work is for spiritual ends whatever the means employed. Doubtless circumstances may compel a temporary change of work necessitated by the furlough of

other missionaries or in emergency, but one should not be asked to cast aside six or eight years of professional study & his own adaptibilities and take up as a permanent work another branch for which he has had no special training and no particular adaptibility. Yet this is exactly what some have suggested to me as the solution of the problem here in Bitlis.

It goes without saying that I would do anything within my power to help Mr. and Mrs. Cole: they have been kindness itself as , indeed have all the circle here. More than once I have told Mr. Cole that I am willing to relieve him if he wishes and carry on the general work as best I can for a certain limited time although it would involve prolonged separation from my family. I admit I am glad that he did not accept the proposition.

Now, as to the circumstances which lead me to desire a change of station There are two sets of adverse conditions - one set pertaining to ourselves personally , the other to the medical work directly. The first you are in part acquainted with through the vote of last Spring. It is only fair that I should say here as an aside; that at the time when the vote was sent I had no thought of an immediate and permanent change. It is true how-ever that I had been much dissatisfied with Bitlis as a location from the first and experience only confirmed my opinion. The out- station field is particularly well adapted for touring and at one time I felt that al-

though the outlook might be bad in the city for hospital work, a large and useful touring work might be developed with equally good spiritual results ; but political conditions have made it increasingly difficult and now practically impossible to tour profitably. I debated asking for a transfer to a more favorable field last January but after much prayer decided to wait another year for clearer guidance. That guidance seems to me now, to have been vouchsafed in the serious illness of our little girl and the partial nervous breakdown experienced by Mrs. Underwood. necessitating on their part an indefinite absence from Bitlis.

~~XXXXXXXXXXX~~, The adverse conditions other than political , which hinder the development of hospital work ,are derived from the position of the town in mountain gorges which are blocked by snow in winter and which even in summer are a great obstacle to the transportation of the sick. Patients who cannot walk have to be brought to me on the backs of men or animals. May I ask you all then to consider the feasibility of a transfer to some other station, leaving the decision of the particular place with you, only suggesting that in the few months spent in Erzroum I found conditions favorable for an extensive work; particularly among the Moslems toward whom I feel especially drawn , perhaps because I have tried to acquire their language rather than the Armenian. May God help us all to follow His will in this matter. I am sure we all regret that we cannot have the advantage of meeting together to settle a question of such difficulty.

Yours in the Master's service
H. Z. Underwood

Rec'd DEC 17 1904

Bitlis, Turkey, Nov. 11/ 04.

Dear Doctor Barton:-

Ans'd DEC 28 1904

Your favor of October eighth received. I note what you say about postponing bringing the matter of a transfer to Erzroum before the Mission until the question of the Diarbekir hospital is settled and accordingly, I have held from the mail a communication to the Mission stating my desire for a change, the reasons which seem to me to make it necessary, and a request that the Mission take the matter under consideration. It will not be improper I think if I enclose a copy to you now, and I await your reply before placing the matter before the Mission.

You speak as if the Diarbekir matter were already under dis cussion by the Mission but so far as I know, the discussion at present is confined to Harpoot and Mardin and the Mission generally has no proposition before it.

We are in a position in which prolonged waiting is difficult-that is, a year or two. My wife and two little ones are living in two small rooms kindly given over to our use by the Stapletons. But their house is not a large one and we do not feelfree to be a burden upon them for a long period. Should it be decided by the Mission that I am to stay in Bitlis for a considerable time to come, I shall never-the-less be obliged to maintain my family in Erzroum; for apart from our little girls delicate health, my wife's nervous condition is such that she cannot think of returning to Bitlis while the present political status continues. You may not be aware of the fact that our residence here is some seven or eight minutes walk from

the homes of the other missionaries and from the schools, surrounded by soldiers' quarters, and with a narrow tortuous lane shut in by high walls as part of the road to be traversed in going to the mission premises.

Add to this the constant rumors of trouble, frequent murders in the immediate neighborhood, the isolation whenever duty called me away from the city altogether -I can not be surprised at her nervous breakdown. In America she was by no means a case of 'nerves'. If she were here I could not leave her and go to Moush and perhaps Sasun as I expect to next week. Doubtless, my own illnesses- malaria, typhoid fever and a few other things bore hardly upon her. In any case it is out of the question for her to return; and yet while our future field remains undecided we can hardly transport our outfit there and start house-keeping temporarily.

If the matter could be settled immediately as to the future location of our home the question of my field of work might even wait a little.

If it is true that I can work in this vilayet better when my family is in Erzroum (and such is the case) it seems to me that unless it is at once decided that we go to Diarbekir, it would be best to keep house in Erzroum and even in event of such decision I should wish to spend considerable time ~~there~~ in Diarbekir before settling my family there. The place of old has had a bad reputation for malaria -a disease to which we seem especially liable. Captain Tyrrell of Van is already in Sasun. Mr. Cole has probably given you any news relating to the station and I need not repeat it.

Yours truly

H. L. Underwood.

P.S. I do not see how a medical work in Erzroum involves extra expense to the Board unless it is the purpose to send another physician here in case of my transfer - a measure which neither Mr. Cole nor I consider necessary. As to a medical missionary shouldering the general work also, it seems to me a physical impossibility if further it is to be done either department.

If a doctor will see any outsiders he is busy all the time.

Bitters, Nov. 8, 1904
With copy of communication
addressed to Mission

Relief

Mousb, Dec 17th 1904.

Rev. Jas. L. Barton D.D.
Boston Mass
U.S.A.

Ans'd FEB 1 1905

Dear Doctor Barton - Yours of Nov. 11th at hand by last post. I am glad that the letter to friends in America setting forth the need of the medical work in view of the Erzroum fire meets with your approval. You are doubtless in receipt of my letter written from Bethel concerning my proposed transfer and enclosing for your consideration a copy of a letter to the mission on the subject. Inasmuch as you had asked me to hold the question in abeyance for a time I did not mail copies to the other stations but sent only the one copy to you. However since coming to Mousb word has reached me that the matter is to be brought before the mission at once in the form of a vote started by Erzroum and hence the explanatory letter on my part can not be objectionable at the present time. I have therefore directed copies to be sent to each station without waiting for an answer from you to my November letter. I trust this will meet with your approval. If the question is to be voted on it is certainly desirable to focus all possible light upon it and make the most of our privilege of correspondence where we cannot have

Bitlis Nov. 8/1904

face to face conference. The death of annual meetings, the widely varying conditions in the different mission stations, the differing political conditions in the various vilayets, added to the permanent differences of race, language and climate make it well nigh as difficult for sister stations to judge of our affairs or we of theirs as if the mission included stations in Hindustan and Burma as well as Turkey.

I have thought seriously of a trip to Harpoot and Mardin just to confer about this matter and to become acquainted with the fellow workers there. But the expense of travel is great and at present I am busy enough with work here.

As confirming my view that Moush is a better center than Bitlis for medical work (expressed in a letter a year ago or more.) you will be interested to know that I have three surgical patients who have just been operated upon — more at one time under my care than at any period of my stay in Bitlis. Also there are several others in prospect beside medical calls far beyond my ability to find time for. Of course the prime object in my presence here at Moush just now is relief distribution to the victims of the Sasun affair ~~of last spring~~. There are some seven thousand five hundred persons so destitute of food and

clothing that it is a problem how they are to survive the winter. We have given out in food, money, clothing etc. something like one thousand liras but must have nearly twice as much more even to afford the scanty subsistence possible on (1 cent) ten paras per day per head. I am very sorry that the impression has gotten out that the need is not great. It is doubtless far greater than in the affair of ten years ago in spite of the fact that the government has given about half the amount necessary for rebuilding the villages - has distributed some grain, money etc. and done rather more than one would expect from a Turk toward those whom he counts as rebels, and who, unfortunately, are not altogether ~~free~~ unworthy the name.

Typhoid is rampant. The barracks are full of it and the dwellings of the citizens also. I could spend all my time with typhoid patients if I had nothing else on hand. My assistant is down with the disease now. The cause of its prevalence is not far to seek. Mosul enjoys the evil repute of being the filthiest city in Turkey. The streets from door step to door-step are sewers - the houses filthy and full of vile odors. It is not surprising that the death list this year from typhoid reaches four figures among the soldiers alone.

I am impressed with what you say about the opportunity for a large and self supporting medical work in Erzroum. It is quite in accord with my observation and experience during the summer. If begun on a fairly large scale it might not be altogether self supporting at a bound at least during the relating business depression now present but I feel confident that it would be so ere long. And still more important, it is a point of great strategic importance in reaching the Moslems - far more so I should say than either Bitlis or Diarbekir.

It is quite uncertain how long I shall remain here. For a little time after my arrival on the 19th Nov. relief kept me busy but we are at a stand-still at present for want of funds.

Thanks for the good wishes. Mrs. U reports the little ones well except that just now they are having measles which is a bit of an anxiety in the case of Master Ernest Arthur now only ten months old.

Most sincerely yours

H. G. Underwood.

P.S. I fear from your reference to Mr. Peet, that I gave you the impression that he advised immediately establishing a work in Erzroum. Such is not the case. He advised me that political conditions made it desirable to re-establish myself somewhere as soon as possible.

Marash Dec. 17. 1904.

Erzroum, Turkey, Mar. 8th. 1905.

Rec'd APR 4 1905
Ans'd MAR 5 1905

Rev. Jas. L. Barton, D.D.
Boston, Mass.
U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Barton:- On my arrival here the 25th. of Feb., I found your December letter awaiting me. I thank you for the sympathy and interest therein expressed. While in Moush I received your letter telling of the thirty dollars for my instrument fund. Please express my hearty thanks for this contribution, if indeed I have not already written of it in my letter to you from Moush. The relief work is so far accomplished that no one need return until May 1st. I had hoped to return at that time to continue it but in view of my wife's health it seems improbable now.

While the immediate cause of my return to Erzroum in mid-winter was serious illness of the children, on which account I was telegraphed to hasten, yet I found on arrival, that Mrs. Underwood's condition was the serious problem rather than theirs. In fact she was so worn out that Mr. Stapleton sent me two telegrams before I left Moush, without her knowledge urging my speedy return. In view of the cholera in Van and the likelihood of a quarantine in the Spring with its inevitable loss or damage, it seemed best to bring with me some of our more delicate and valuable effects now. This I did, leaving the bulk of our household goods to come later.

I trust that you will not consider it premature to bring on our things and establish a home of our own at once. The Stapletons are most kind but conditions are such that for their sakes not less than our own we must find a residence. Further, unofficial returns from the vote indicate that the Mission favors our permanent transfer to Erzroum and even should the Prudential Committee favor our going to Diarbekir, that matter is too far in the future to be considered now, as affecting the question of present residence.

You will be interested to know that much interest is aroused in my home church in Jamestown N.Y. in the matter of replacing my surgical outfit

Erzerum, Turkey, Mar. 8th, 1906.

Rev. Jas. L. Barton, D.D.

Boston, Mass.

U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Barton:- On my arrival here the 28th. of Feb., I found your December letter awaiting me. I thank you for the sympathy and interest therein expressed. While in Mousb I received your letter telling of the thirty dollars for my instrument fund. Please express my hearty thanks for this contribution. If indeed I have not already written of it in my letter to you from Mousb. The relief work is so far accomplished that no one need return until May 1st. I had hoped to return at that time to continue it but in view of my wife's health it seems improbable now.

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You will be interested to know that much interest is aroused in my home church in Jamestown N.Y. In the matter of receiving my surplus clothing

but I have as yet received no word from Dr. Bayley's church in Denver nor from So. Norwalk. The latter are already doing so much however, that they can hardly be counted on for a special contribution of money. I hope that they will not forget that we need special contributions of prayer as well. I can but think that my letter to Doctor Bayley went astray; he is too dear a friend of missions and too well acquainted with me personally to pass it over unanswered.

My winters trip from Bitlis was full of interest and barring one or two mountain passes and the effect on my eyes of the intense sunlight, it was pleasanter than summer's touring. At least I was spared the usual appearance of robbers,- the Armenian highlands in winter are unfavorable to lvers -in- wait. Mr. Cole has doubtless written to you about the closing of our school in Moush, (now reopened), the ward school in Bitlis as well as several villageschools. Ours are not the only ones to be closed for along my route I discovered no less than four villages in the Bitlis field in which the Gregorian schools had recently been closed and the teachers arrested.

I am sorry to say that our Legation does not give much support to the friendly efforts of the consuls here in behalf of our interests in Bitlis; and two of the latter are much disgusted, even to the point of wishing to be relieved of American interests. Personally, most kind and courteous, they feel that it is not only fuile to report to a legation that is unwilling to follow a matter up; but derogatory to their position in this country.

Yours sincerely

H. Z. Underwood.

P.S. Up to Feb. 1st the relief funds expended by me amounted to some 2180 liras, given out in wheat and money at the per capita rate of ten paras a day. This should suffice until May 1st after which large sums will be needed for relief and re-establishment. As Mr. Peet reports fully four thousand liras total contributions you will note that the present balance is satisfactorily large, though by no means sufficient to meet the future need.

I should estimate roughly that some £.Y.1000 will need to be expended in the spring and summer.

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Yours sincerely

Dr. Underwood, Thru
Dr. Murray, Mar. 8. 1909

Ans'd APR 4 1905

Erzroum. Mar. 11..1905.

Ans'd MAR 5 1905

Dear Doctor Barton.- To my letter of the 8th. I wish to add a note which you may take for what it is worth as the expression of my own views . It is fair to say, however that Mr. Cole would not agree with them on this subject though we are pretty generally of one mind on most topics. I refer to the relation the missionaries and their work have to the relief work. and also the misapprehension of the real condition of things.here. prevalent in America and England. The donors to the relief fund should really understand the facts in the case. It seems clear that the affair of last Spring was of a decidedly more revolutionary character than that of 1894. though that also had more revolutionary propaganda than outsiders suspected. Still. the slaughter of "94" was a massacre . while the affaire of last year had the character of a battle in which both sides were armed. Outrages doubtless occurred but at least an effort was made to get non- combatants out of the way. Most significant of all.the homes of the people were not fired by the soldiers but by themselves - this information being wormed out of one of the revolutionary leaders by an Englishman in private conversation.* . It also is confirmed by the stories told by the soldiers themselves who declare that as they reached the scene the houses were just burstin into flame. The object of course was to prevent the soldiers from using them for shelter and still more perhaps. to arouse sympathy. The English consul who visited the scene afterward was hailed as a revolutionary sympathizer until by sharp reproof he corrected the impression. I am not arguing in favor of the government; it is unspeakably bad in the Bitlis vilayet but my point is that under the circumstances we are accounted sympathizers with the rebels because of our part in the relief work. It is a not unnatural supposition

An order has been promulgated forbidding missionaries to tour on the ground that they are instigators of revolution. Of course we have a right to ignore it and shall do so . Already it may have been rescinded for all I know.but it shows how we are regarded by the authorities. Unquestionably the work in Bitlis has been hindered by the suspicion under which Mr. Cole has rested since his relief work in 94 intensified by the conviction which the

(*this is confidential - strictly)

Gracious, Mar. 11..1906.

Dear Doctor Bartu.- Your letter of the 8th. I wish to add a note which you may make for what it is worth as the expression of my own views. It is fair to say, however that Mr. Cole would not agree with them on this subject though we are pretty generally of one mind amongst ladies. I refer to the relation the missionaries and their work have to the relief work. and also the misapprehension of the real condition of things here, prevalent in America and England. The demons to the relief fund should really understand the facts in the case. It seems clear that the affair of last Spring was of a decided more revolutionary character than that of 1894. though that also had more revolutionary prospects than outsiders suspected. Still, the slaughter of "94" was a massacre. while the affairs of last year had the character of a battle in which both sides were armed. Outrages doubtless occurred but at least an effort was made to get non-combatants out of the way. Most significant of all, the homes of the people were not fired by the soldiers but by themselves. the information being wormed out of one of the revolutionary leaders. It also is confirmed by the stories told by the soldiers themselves who declare that as they looked the scene the houses were just bursting into flame. The object of course was to prevent the soldiers from using them for shelter and still more perhaps, to arouse sympathy. The English consul who visited the scene afterward was held as a revolutionary sympathizer until by sharp protest he corrected the impression. I am not arguing in favor of the government, it is unmeasurably bad in the Philippines but my point is that under the circumstances we are accounted sympathizers with the rebels because of our part in the relief work. It is a not unnatural supposition

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the Geo. Knapp affair left in the minds of the authorities.

Doubtless we cannot allow the survivors to starve at any cost but it would seem wiser to send a relief agent not connected with the Board and responsible to the consul of the district . It may be argued that if the missionaries are the distributers it will increase the regard in which they are held by the Armenians and so help the distinctively missionary work. NO one on the field with whom I have talked believes this is the case.and the experience of the last ten years in the Bitlis vilayet is againstit.

Doubtless it does increase our favor with the agitators - a very doubtful desideratum except for considerations of personal safety.

On the whole I am convinced that the less relief work done by me the better for my future usefullness as a missionary. It may be for the best that illness in my home called me back suddenly and bids fair to prevent my return.

Mr. Cole is not at all well. If my first duty were not to my family I should feel it imperative to return there at once. He has failed very much since I first came to Bitlis and I doubt if he can hold on a year longer. He asks me in a letter just received to emphasize once more his failing health . So far as my professional opinion has weight I would urge with all possible emphasis relief for him this year. Another year and a horse back journey may be impossible. His bronchitis is worse and he has developed a serious blood trouble which has lasted several months and in addition his old enemy a varicose limb threatens to break out in one of the indolent ulcers which are almost incurable. Altogether the outlook is bad unless someone is found to relieve him at once. His kindness and unselfishness have been such that he seems almost as a father and I am pained beyond expression that my coming to Bitlis has only delayed the relief that should have been given him long ago. At the same time I can but feelstrongly the disadvantages of Bitlis as a center for work. The natural center is Moush and I doubt if a young man with his life before him would consent to settlein Bitlis if madewell acquainted with theconditions.

Mr. Cole's disagreement with the part of this letter would be as to facts not as to the conclusions I think.

Yrs sincerely

H. G. Underwood

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Geo. Yarrow, Surgeon

Mar. 8 1905

Rec'd APR 24 1905

Erzroum, Turkey. Mar.30th.1905.

Rev. James L. Barton,D.D.

Boston, Mass.

U.S. A.

Ans'd APR 27 1905

Dear Doctor Barton:- Your letter of ~~Mar.~~ Feb 1st recd. the 25th. inst. We were enjoying thepresence of Doctor Norton with us and I took advantage of the fact that he has visited Diarbekir and is well accuainted with Dr.Knaupp's work to confer with him . He did not favor the establishment in Diarbekir of another hospital independant of Dr. K's work and so did not consider the Harpoot plan desirable: i.e. that a native physician be put in charge with Doctors Thom and Atkinson as general overseers. And for the same reason he did not favor sending an American doctor there. His idea is to have the hospital under the American Board but in charge of the German doctor there. Perhaps such a scheme would involve a closer relation between the German and American work than has here-to- fore existed - at least a greater degree of co-operation. But unless there are circumstances which I know nothing about it seems feasible enough and altogether desirable from the stand-point of economy financially and efficiency professionally. There is another thing to be thought of and it is of still greater importance, and that is whether such an arrangement would allow of the best spiritual results from the medical work. I have no reason to suppose that the Germans are any less devoted to the spiritual side of the work than the Americans but as to Dr.K. himself the Harpoot missionaries will know. There is news however, just received that he is leaving Diarbekir, ~~not to return~~. What arrangement exis about a successor we know nothing nor are we sure that he will not return. About my own relation to the question I feel that considerations of health especially my wifes indicate Erzroum rather than Diarbekir . and further.it

Erzroum, Turkey, Mar.7th.1906.

Rev. James L. Barton.D.D.

Boston, Mass.

U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Barton:- Your letter of ~~Mar.~~ Feb. 1st rec. the 28th.. We were enjoying the presence of Doctor Norton with us and I took advantage of the fact that he has visited Diarbekir and is well acquainted with Dr.Knapp's work to confer with him . He did not favor the establishment in Diarbekir of another hospital independent of Dr. K's work and so did not consider the Harpoot plan desirable:i.e. that a native physician be put in charge with Doctors Thom and Atkinson as general overseers. And for the same reason he did not favor sending an American doctor there. His idea is to have the hospital under the American Board but in charge of the German doctor there. Perhaps such a scheme would involve a closer relation between the German and American work than has here-to- fore existed - at least a greater degree of co-operation. But unless there are circumstances which I know nothing about it seems feasible enough and altogether desirable from the stand-point of economy financially and efficiency professionally. There is another thing to be thought of and it is of still greater importance, and that is whether such an arrangement would allow of the best spiritual results from the medical work. I have no reason to suppose that the Germans are any less devoted to the spiritual side of the work than the Americans but as to Dr.K. himself the Harpoot missionaries will know. There is news however, just received that he is leaving Diarbekir. ~~not to return.~~ What arrangement with about a successor we know nothing nor are we sure that he will not return. About my own relation to the question I feel that considerations of health especially my wife indicate Erzroum rather than Diarbekir . and further,it

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With heart-felt thanks for the kind words and personal interest of your letter I remain

Sincerely yours

H. Z Underwood

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With best-felt thanks for the kind words and personal interest of your letter I remain

Sincerely yours

H. G. Dwight

Erzroum, Nov. 30th 1905.

Rec'd JUL 10 1905
Ans'd JUL 12 1905

Erzroum. June 17th. 1905.

Dear Doctor Barton:-

Your letter of Apr. 27th. at hand some time ago but I have delayed answering it that I might enclose my annual report. The latter is most unsatisfactory from a statistical stand-point at least but the Bitlis accounts have not yet been transferred and I do not know myself the exact condition of the medical department's finances. We were glad indeed to learn that the Prudential Committee has formally approved of the mission vote regarding our transfer to Erzroum. You ask what arrangement has been made for a home for us. At present we are occupying a part of the Mission House the remainder serving as temporary quarters for the Boys' School until such time as the building which was burned last year shall be replaced. We are of course somewhat crowded at present but it is only temporarily we hope. Upon the one-story extension that has long existed in the rear, we are building a room or two above that will relieve the congestion a bit and later when no longer needed for school purposes it may serve for the medical work which is almost without any quarters at present. I am seeing patients in a room which is also a recitation room during a part of the day. When the boys school is rebuilt it will be quite otherwise and it may be that the entire building will be utilized for our residence and medical work. This would give us a most hopeful start, and the rents would be payable to the Board - a great advantage because houses rented from natives are always of uncertain tenure. It is a favorite Armenian trick to run up the rent year by year. You ask how Mrs. H. will stand the climate in Erzroum. I confess to some doubt on that point. She has spells of extreme nervousness and the altitude may account for it, although a four years stay in Denver developed no trouble. Erzroum is 1000 feet higher than Denver however. She stayed one summer in Leadville Colo. but found permanent residence there impossible. The winter has been exceedingly trying to her not only on account of my absence but because of the almost constant illness of the children. Both had measles and bronchitis one - a pneumonia and the other no less than six attacks of tonsillitis and she herself had an attack of the grippe- altogether a record which

Rec'd JUL 10 1905

Ans'd JUL 12 1905

Ezrzoum, June 17th, 1905.

Dear Doctor Barton:-

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makes it impossible to blame the altitude altogether although it must be admitted that it is too high here for nervous patients. She never appeared of that temperament in America, however. Mr. Cole is much better now and has been able to visit Moush twice this Spring and complete the distribution of the remainder of the relief. You will be glad to know that the mission is voting with enthusiasm to have an annual (!) meeting at Van this coming July. It is to be hoped that cholera or revs. will not prevent it. There is a hint from Mardin that one subject of discussion may be the coming of Mr. Cole to Erzroum and the transfer of Mr. Stapleton to Bitlis. I feel sure that the Stapletons would be unwilling to consider it nor do I think well of the proposal myself either for them or for Mr. Cole. Personally I should welcome the Coles almost as I would my parents. Our relations there were certainly delightful but from the stand-point of the work here it seems to me un wise to make the change at his age. The fact that he was formerly connected with the Erzroum station cuts little figure after a generation has passed and his absence from this place approximates that. I have only lately returned from escorting Miss Bushnell to the coast and she is doubtless now in Constantinople. I appreciated highly the opportunity it gave me to make the accuaintance of Mr. and Mrs. Crawford. In talkingwith Mr. C. I chanced to express my need of a special course of surgery, particularly the surgery of the eye and also my need of study of Turkish. He urged me to consider spending a winter in Talas with Dr. Dodd. Nothing would suit me better if it were possible but our transfer here involves such expense to the Board that I can hardly think seriously of it at present. Perhaps it is one of the good things of the future. Mr. Stapleton and Miss Foote have ~~just~~ lately returned from a tour in Pasin and Khinous where they found much to encourage them.

Most sincerely yours

H. L. Underwood

P.S. If it is needful to repeat my application for permission to utilize medical receipts for the enlargement of the medical work because of the change of residence please bring the matter before the Prudential Committee However the prospects are for a debt rather than an excess this year.

Erzroum.

July 17 1905.

1905 JUL 31 1905

Erzroum, Turkey, July 8th. 1905.

Dear Doctor Barton:-

You will have received ere this my report for the work of the medical department during the past year. I have been unable to include the usual invoice of medical supplies and instruments because some of them are still in Bitlis. Since sending you the report, a copy of Mr. Cole's semi-annual has come and I should like to have inserted as among the contributions the thirty dollars which you forwarded and for which my thanks are due Mr. J.R.Mardock, also a contribution from Miss McClure for my surgical instruments. Also from Mrs. C.Underwood and W.R. Underwood $100.

The medical work is very promising but at present greatly hindered by want of room and lack of money and instruments.

Yours sincerely

H. L. Underwood.

Correspondence - Turkey - July 6 - 1905.

Rec'd DEC 5 1905
Ans'd FEB 22 1906

Erzroum, Nov. 11TH. 1905.

Dear Doctor Barton :- A letter just received from Mr. Cole encloses a vote from Bitlis stating that in view of Mr. C's health it seems imperative that he together with Mrs. Cole be granted a furlough if not a permanent retirement , and asking for the vote of the Mission upon the matter. It has been my intention to write you something further about Mr. Cole especially as you wrote me that you counted on me for news on that point. This vote is an additional incentive to let you know his present status. For many years he has had a spinal weakness but by exercising care has managed not to injure himself. However coming from Van after the meeting last July his saddle turned and he sustained a bad fall injuring the back at the site of the old trouble . though apparently not very seriously for soon after he started off on a very extensive tour afield. Doubtless this was not wise and the penalty came a few days later when he was bed-ridden and in agony for several days in Moush. Last week I received a letter from him written in Moush describing his condition in which he states that he realizes at last that he can tour no more. He has other infirmities also aside from the weak back and these together with advancing years have brought him to the end of his active work. I feel that his request for a furlough next year is not only reasonable but that it is absolutely necessary that it be granted. In view of that and the fact that no new man is in sight so far as we know, what is to be done ? It would seem that some transfer perhaps a temporary one may have to be decided upon. or else the abandonment of Bitlis as a station. If Dr. Reynolds of Van were in vigorous health it might be that the Yarrows could be spared temporarily to relieve Mr. Cole and not impossible later perhaps to work the field from Van with the aid of a launch. at present however although things are quiet enough politically the old sores are merely scabbed over not healed and it seems unwise to leave the Misses Ely there alone , at least it would be most disagreable with the possibility of danger. Mr. Cole proposes that the Stapletons go there and that Dr. Barnum of Constantinople and his wife come to Erzroum temporarily. If it were possible for Mr. Emerich to

leave Mardin for a time and hold the fort at Bitlis , that would perhaps be still better. Mardin is now a three man station as is Van with I should say , lighter burdens to carry . Were I unmarried and ordained I might think of going back , though I feel that it is high time that I developed a permanent work with something like a hospital . and such a temporary move would postpone still further that development . As it is , it is out of the question. In view of Mr. Coles breakdown the matter cannot be postponed though a solution which allows of the continuance of Bitlis as a station seems most difficult.

Yours sincerely,

H. L. Underwood

Grayson-Sunday Nov. 11-1905.

Rec'd MAY 7 1906 236

Erzroum, Turkey, Apr.14th. 1906.

Ans'd MAY 9 1906

Rev. J.L.Barton,D.D.,

Boston.

Dear Doctor Barton:- Your letter of Feb. 23d. rec'd two weeks ago.

In it you express the hope that a meeting of the Mission may settle the Bitlis problem. Although at the Van meeting last year it was decided to meet this year at Mardin , the financial stringency has led to the abandonment of the annual meeting for this year. Mardin , Bitlis and Harpoot have all expressed themselves informally against an annual meeting. Van has already, it seems appointed delegates and Erzroum was on the point of doing so until we bethought ourselves that it would be well to enquire of other stations. Moreover I doubt if the Bitlis problem can be settled in that way. I appreciate the situation and we have made it the burden of our prayers that a solution might be found which would enable Mr. Cole to retire and yet allow the continuance of the work there. Dr. Reynolds' suggestion that the Germans take up as much of the work there as they are able meets I think with favor both in Bitlis and the other stations. The Misses Ely know German and have spent considerable time in that country and I believe would find congenial touch with the German brethren, though doubtless they would prefer their fellow-countrymen. The girls school while in their hands and perhaps most of the general work might be linked to Van in a nominal way and later if pleasing both to the Germans and to the Board the entire station might become a German work after the Misses Ely retire. If the Germans do not care to enter Bitlis I personally , would not object to seeing the station united with Van. Those now in Bitlis however pray to be delivered from such a fate . In a case of grave emergency I could post-pone further development of the medical work here and spend a year or two there just to hold things to-gether in which event Mrs. Underwood and the children would have to go to America temporarily

It seems to me that it is of the utmost importance that I develope the work which has been begun here and which is of great promise. I find conditions very much more favorable for an extensive medical work in Erzroum than in Bitlis. and it can hardly be said that we have no dispensary here (as you will seeby the enclosed report) unless you mean by that , a building and real-estate belonging to the mission and erected for medical purposes. Mrs. Underwood and I feel convinced that she could not remain in Diarbekir(coming now to that subject) and naturally we prefer the work here where we can be to-gether. From what I can gather without a visit to the place. I question whether my missionary career would last very long were the hospital to be erected inside the city limits. But the really insuperable obstacle to our considering Diarbekir as a field is my wife's health . She cannot tolerate isolation as I can and the two years in Bitlis even with the older missionaries only a few minutes walk distant, left her in a mental condition bordering on nervous prostration which she was long in recovering from. Upon no consideration can I think of her remaining there and if it should seem of supreme importance to the Prudential Committee that I go to Diarbekir for a time, I said then as in the matter of Bitlis, my family would have to return to America. I feel that only the direst emergency would justify such action but am willing to leave the decision of that point to the Board. You will be glad to know that my health is much better here than in Bitlis and that the work which is pressing finds me ready for it. The matter of Mr. Stapletons furlough next year has already been referred to in his letters to you. That and my developing medical work will give me a heavy tug for two years to come. With prayers and best wishes for your success in the Million Dollar Campaign.",

Sincerely yours,

H. L. Underwood.

Erzroom-Turkey. Apr. 14-1906.

Rec'd OCT 6 1906
Ans'd JAN 4 1907

Erzroum. Sept 15th 1906.

Dear Doctor Barton:-

Pardon my delay in answering your request for hospital, medical report for the past year. I was absent when it arrived, having gone to Trebizond to meet Miss Bushnell and my wife's mother Mrs. Judson. You will be glad to know that they reached Erzroum safely Sept 1st after only a slight detention in Constantinople on acct. of reported plague in Trebizond.

I notice that the enclosed blank report is dated 1905-06. I have thus far made out reports to Dec 31st but if you will select any other time in preference I will conform to it. Annual Mission Meetings in the E.T.M. are too rare to be considered as influencing the matter. I found it impossible to take Miss Hoffmann on as nurse in view of her disturbed mental condition and she has returned to Constantinople to await orders from Greifswalde, Germany. It was a bitter disappointment. The need for a trained nurse is urgent especially in view of the added burdens which will fall upon me during the prospective absence of the Stapletons. I know not what we shall do.

Yours sincerely
H. G. Underwood.

Sept. 15-1906.

Engroom -

Dear Sister Dorothy -

Enclosed you find a letter from Mr. Bishop, which explains itself. I have written him that I would be willing to do what I could for the boy, but that I could not do much, as I am very busy at the present time

Rec'd NOV 19 1906
Ans'd JAN 4 1907

Erzroum, Oct. 25th 1906.

Rev. Jas. L. Barton, D.D.
Boston.

Dear Doctor Barton:- It is sometime since you last heard from me and a few lines may not be amiss although there is nothing of supreme importance to write. The political status or perhaps I should say rather, the municipality's status here is a curious one at present, for we are practically without any executive government. The strike of last spring by which the Moslems expressed their dislike of the new per capita tax has had its sequel in events of this week. Orders had evidently come to the vali to seize certain persons who had been prominent in the strike and send them to Constantinople. The seizure was made by night and it is said was accompanied by indignities to the mufti. This roused the populace and an enraged mob stormed the vali's house captured him and imprisoned him in a mosque. He was forced to recall the captives at peril of his life - after which he was allowed to return to his house where he is now ill from the shock and a minor wound or two.

The same night the mob murdered the chief of police his son, and a third person who had assisted in the capture of the mufti. The city has not been as yet put under military law but we expect it will be soon. All is quiet so far and the market which was closed, is again open. But of course the matter cannot be considered settled while the vali is deposed and no one in his place and

while the entire police force is inactive and without a head. New York City would not be safe two nights under such circumstances. But you may have all that news already and I will not dilate upon it.

The affair is preventing me from going to Erzingan and Mr. Stapleton from a tour in Khrouns and Pasin.

A vote for Miss Foote's return was started to-day. It reads "..... return to her work - the evangelistic work for women - in the Erzroum field.....". I think it should be emphasized that it is for this work and not (even in part) for the school work that she will return. You are aware of the very unpleasant relations between Miss Foote and Miss Lord while here and may also be aware of the strong feeling that that unpleasantness has engendered in the mind of Miss Bushnell adverse to Miss Foote - a feeling not altogether justifiable in my opinion but which nevertheless exists and which has caused her to refrain from voting on the question of her return, even although her work is to be entirely outside of the school.

Personally I like Miss Foote and she seems to me to be an admirable lady missionary for the touring work but I hope that the Womens Board in considering the matter of her return will not fail to recognize two things - first - that it will be impossible for her to co-operate with Miss Bushnell in the school work and, secondly, that an associate for Miss Bushnell is urgently needed. The strain of carrying the whole burden of the school work has already told visibly upon her since

her arrival here, As a physician I feel it my duty to mention this. Whether two more lady missionaries can be sent here is a question of course for the decision of the Women's Board. We shall all be delighted if Miss Foote and an associate for Miss Bushnell can both be appointed at once. There is need enough.

You may not have heard of my great disappointment in the matter of a trained nurse. The Lsermans appointed a Miss Hoffmann and she came on as far as Yerbzaid, but her health (mentally) was such that it was impossible to receive her. At least so it seemed to both Dr Jewett and myself. That does not mean that she may not accomplish great good in some less exacting line of work. It is a great disappointment to me and I heartily wish that one could be sent me from America.

It will be doubly needful for me to have skilled assistance in the hospital after next spring when the Stapletons will probably go to America on furlough and I shall be the only man here. If my wife were in good health she could greatly aid me in the medical work as she is a fully qualified physician, but her health is so poor that even her household cares are a burden almost too great and I am doubtful as to her ability to remain here until our furlough.

In case of necessity I am willing to remain here alone while she and the two children might go to America. May I ask what provision would be made by

the Prudential Committee in such an event. We both hope and pray that it may not be needful however. The work here is needy and promising and a hospital might in time become self-supporting. It would well nigh break my heart to leave it.

With sincere regards,

Heartfully yours.

H. Z. Underwood.

Nov. 20, 1706

Rec'd SEP 14 1907

10.30

Erzroum, Turkey, Aug.24, 1907.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Boston,

Dear Doctor Barton, - I enclose herewith the Estimates for 1908 for Erzroum Station. In one or more preaching places and village schools there will possibly be a vacancy this year but as thatnaccount is in debt we would ask that the appropriation be allowed and that in case it is not needed in the field that it may be utilized to clear the books.

In regard to the salary account I would say that the Station has started a Mission vote asking that the basic salary for a married missionary in Erzroum be raised to L.T. 225 per annum.

The reasons for this you are already familiar with.

The vote has not as yet been reported upon.

I would like to call your attention to our Russian work or perhaps I should say the lack of it. The Board expends yearly L.T. 24 with practically nothing to show for it. With present political conditions it is very difficult tomproperly supervise the work across the border even if our missionary force were adequate which it is not. It seems to me to be almost a waste of money.

I regret that you could not pay Erzroum a visit during your recent tour which proved I trust , all and more than you [illegible] anticipated.

Sincerely yours,

(H. L. Underwood)

Rec'd SEP 1 1907

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Sincerely yours,

Erzroum-Turkey
Aug 24-1907.

OCT 28 1907

30

Erzroum, Turkey, Oct. 5th. 1907.

Doctor James L. Barton.
Boston, Mass.
U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Barton;- " Light to your eyes "on getting back to America safe and sound.' We had hoped to see you but now transfer our expectations to Mr. Hicks. If t is not too late I will write him upon the imperative necessity of visiting the E.T. M. and particularly Erzroum. Annual Meeting seems to be a defunct institution in this part of the world and there is the greater need of a visit from him in consequence. If ever a miss mission needed annual meetings I believe it is the ETM.

I have received from Mr. Peet recently a very forcible letter relative to the debts in the station , particularly the orphanage debt, to clear which he asks the immediate sale of the house which was Mr. Stapleton's residenceand which is orphanage property I feel strongly that it is not well for the Board to carry the annual orphanage deficit on its books and I am ready to comply with the request and sell the house as soon as may be; but it has been our hope that perhaps the Board would consider its purchase. as a missionary residence. Erzroum is a compact mass of houses crowded together within fortifications in a way which allows no room for gardens or a mission compound and desirable property is exceedingly difficult to find anywhere near the schools The old Mission house which we are occupying and which our medical work shares with us and also pays rent upon is really unfitted for two missionary families to occupy altho it does very well ~~with~~ for the medical work with the surgical ward which we have built in

Erzerum, Turkey, Oct. 5th. 1907.

Doctor James L. Dayton,
Boston, Mass.
U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Dayton:- " Delight to your eyes "on getting back to America safely and soundly." We had hoped to see you out now transfer our expectations to Mr. Hicks. If it is not too late I will write him upon the imperative necessity of visiting the E.T. M. and particularly Erzerum. Annual Meeting seems to be a defunct institution in this part of the world and the greater need of a visit from him in consequence. If ever a mission needed annual meetings I believe it is the ETM.

I have just received from Mr. Pratt recently a very forcible letter relative to two losses in the station, particularly the orphanage part, to which he asks the immediate aid of the boards which was sent. Enclosed is Mr. Pratt's communication which is a pathetic appeal. I feel strongly that it is not well for the Board to carry the annual orphanage deficit on its books and I am ready to accept with the reluctance and all the duties as soon as may be; but it has been six days since the Board would consider the matter as a missionary institution. Erzerum is a congeal mass of houses crowded together with fortifications in a way which allows no room for carriage or public land assumed and individual property is exceedingly difficult to find anywhere near the school. The old Italian house which we are occupying and which supplements work appears with us and also pays rent. Rent is really unfitted in two missionary facilities to occupy although it does very well with the medical work with the surgical ward which we have built in

in the rear. Further I have thought that even if the missionary which we have so long desired for Erzroum should never come, the growth of the medical work will in time force us out of our present home and a place like the Stapleton residence will be acessary even if they do not need it. Their present intention is to reside in the school on their return.

Before deciding to sell to a native I wish that the Prudential Committee might consider acquiring the property. The orphanage paid L.T. 450 for it, I understand, and the present orphanage debt on our books is about half that sum. The political situation is somewhat grave. We have had three valis in two years and the present one has finally succeeded in getting his release. The others had to go willy nilly after some bad treatment at the hands of the populace. The present lessee of the Stapleton residence has recently been arrested on false charges trumped up by revs. and is minded to go to America instead of buying the property as he had some thought of doing previously. The govt. is powerless at present and mob law may prevail at any moment. Fortunately the Ts are well disposed at present. A few days ago they brutally murdered a prominent Armenian merchant who with others had sought to corner the wheat market and roughly handled and wounded two Turks associated with him. The whole atmosphere is one of fear and uncertainty - certainly not a good time to sell property to natives- Armenians at least.

Yours sincerely,

H. L. Underwood.

P.S. Is there no hope for Miss Bushnell? Her need of help in the school is very great and we had hoped an associate would surely come this fall.

Erzroum-Turkey.
Oct. 5-1907.

Rec'd NOV 1 1907

Erzroum, Turkey, Oct9th. 1907.

Dr. Jas. L. Barton,

Boston, Mass. U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Barton;- Last week I sent you an important letter relative to the disposition of orphanage property to clear the debt and also mentioned the unsettled political condition here.

I forgot to register the letter and in all probability it was opened for my mail is now being opened almost constantly and with little effort at secrecy. I would like very much to know if the letter finally reaches you. We are trying to retrench so far as possible and I must emphasize again the opinion we hold here that the work here which Erzroum station has in Russia should be stopped at once. It is costly and most unsatisfactory and utterly impossible to supervise with our present force and with the frontier to be crossed. Unless I hear from you to the contrary we shall discontinue it at the end of this year. I would like to see a mission established there very much but it can never be worked as an outstation from across the frontier.

I must broach a matter to you which I would prefer to leave untouched but which I must mention in view of a letter which Harpoot has just sent you (they tell me) relative to the return of the Stapletons. It is a delicate matter because of the prsonal element. You are aware of the disagreenent between Miss Lord and Mr. Stapleton and also aware of certain indiscretions and errors in Mr. S's early missionary work which he himself deeply regrets but which the ladies of the station(Miss Lord and Miss Bushnell seem unable to forget) This together with

the strong feeling that Miss Bushnell holds that Mr. S was wholly wrong in his disagreement with Mr. Ford and a rather careless bookkeeping which involved certain accts of the Board and W.B.M.I. which should have been separated, have altogether influenced her against voting for his return much as she loves and admires Mrs. Stapleton, unless another ordained missionary should come at once. Failing this she appeared to think that a transfer to another station in the mission would be desirable Personally I felt that while certain things indicating a bit of carelessness and erratic action have been done by him and he is possessed by a brusqueness difficult for some natives to understand and has failed (perhaps because for so long alone time here alone) to acquire much readiness with the language; nevertheless a bit of frank talk from Boston(I mean from you and Mr. Wiggin) should have effect and should be sufficient. We all have our weak points and while Mr. Stapleton is no exception he has many good qualities . Further although he has made some enemies among the natives it has been so far as I can learn learn through a stiff-backed adherence to honest dealing and his policies and principles I heartily approve altho sometimes he might be a little more suave . I hope I have said enough without becoming a gossip . In short I hope that they will return return and to Erzroum. Mrs. Stapleton is extraordinarly well fitted for the work -equal to several in one way and another.

Yours sincerely ,

H. L. Underwood.

Original

Rec'd DEC 20 1907

Erzroom.

Dr.Underwood writes as follows:-

We receive constantly letters from Khanous telling of such dire distress and even starvation among the villagers that I feel something should be done. It is exceedingly difficult for me to get away for a tour of investigation but it seems clear that the distress is so great that relief is needed. Thus in Heramih three Protestant families are reported by our teacher there as actually starving. It is to be said that similar conditions prevail also in Moush and Bitlis. where wheat is selling at 40 piasters a gode and is hard to get at that.

Is there any possibility of relief for these foor people. Some of them are good stuff. Thus one little boy aged 10-12 years came on here from Khanous without relations.alone. to have me operate on him for enlarged glands in the neck and also to beg me to take him into the school. I refused the last but agreed to take him into the hospital for operation. He mounted the table and took chloroform without a whimper and that all alone. not a friend or acquaintance. He is an orphan boy but bright and intelligent and can read and write. I must refuse to take him in and will have to set him adrift as soon as he gets well but we long for the establishment of a permanent orphanage to which he might be sent. It seems to me that the need is almost as great as in 1896 and worst of all. it is a chronic affair.

I fyou can sceure any relief funds I will do my best to have them rightly distributed.

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Erzroom - Turkey -

Re - Relief

Rec'd DEC 21 1907

Erzroum. Nov 30th 07.

Dr. Jas. L. Barton
Boston Mass.
U. S. A.

Dear Doctor Barton. Your letter referring to the matter of purchase by the Board of the orphanage property known as the Stapleton residence - duly reach. last week. On learning of the impossibility of such purchase I immediately sought a purchaser here and have finally made the sale so that the orphanage acct. debt will be cleared. at £T. 426

I would have preferred to keep the property - at least till Mr. Stapletons return but in view of Mr. Peet's urgent letters it was impossible.

I hope by the way that the Stapletons will return - not only for their and the work's sake but for our's as well for as I once wrote I am not at all certain that I can remain here much longer in view of Mrs. Judson's health and circumstances. The - you will perhaps recall is my wife's mother and was left a widow a year ago last April.

I am very sorry that Mr. Fields was unable to include Erzroum in his tour. We need a deputation visit greatly.

I am glad of the prospect of a larger salary but altho twenty-five lira's increase is hardly enough here in Erzroum. I regret that the bate we started asking that it be raised to 225 (including rent) seems not to have passed.

Most cordially yours,

J. L. Underwood.

Please do not ~~forget~~ overlook my inquiry as to keeping up the Russian work.

Erzroom - Turkey. Nov. 30 - 1907.

Y2. Cornelia Jul

Rec'd DEC 30 1907

Erzroum, Turkey, Dec. 7, 1907.

Rev. Jas. L. Barton, D.D..
Boston, Mass. U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Barton;- Your letter of Nov. 14th. rec'd. last post. In it you leave the question of the work of the station in Russia to us to decide. I referred it to you because it has a bearing upon the broadest aspect of the Board's work and is not simply a question of station policy. As a station we feel compelled to drop it for it is a dead weight on the work, cannot be overseen properly and the money is sadly needed this side the frontier in our own vilayet. I had hoped that the Board might consider placing a missionary there and Mr. Cole talked it over with me while here last summer. He is the one who was largely instrumental in developing that work and knows the largeness of the opportunity there. He would, I am sure advocate its further development rather than its abandonment and with good reason. But he knows also the impossibility of working it under present political conditions from across the frontier with our lack of workers here especially. While dropping our work therefore in that field as a station, I advocate its continuance from another center and if you feel that a visit of investigation on my part would be of use I am eager to make it. It would involve an expense of some twenty pounds which would have to come as a special grant.

We have received recently a communication from Mr. Peet explaining the proposed plan of monthly remittance of sums due the various stations instead of the present method of station drafts. He states that stations which have debit balance so large as to render it impossible to gradually reduce the amt. by deduction of a certain sum from the monthly remittances, should ask from the Prudential Committee for settlement. The S.A. acct. is nearly at hand now and it is evident that there will be a debt of something like three hundred pounds exclusive of the orphanage debt which has now been cleared by the sale of the Stapleton house. Of this three hundred debt, 198 liras is building acct. the cost of rebuilding the stable Mr. S tells me. Two years ago the stable

collapsed and had to be rebuilt. as you are probably aware. A special grant should have been asked for it seemed to me. but we hoped to get along without it.

The remainder is chiefly if not wholly our personal debts which have gradually accumulated in spite of us and which have resulted from insufficienceof salaries. The new salary basis (L.T.202) is hardly sufficient and old debts cannot be paid from it. We have consilered the matter and as a station would refer it to you for adviceas suggested in Mr. Peets circular.

In your letter you refer to the proposal that Mr. Knapp go to Bitlis. It does not appear feasible to me. Rightly or wrongly he is thought by the gov't. to have been implicated in revolutionary movements there and as you know, in Turkey a matter is never too old to be raked up. While in Bitlis I was frequently meeting natives of dubious political character who enquired eagerly about "Mr. George" as they called him. It may be the only solution for Bitlis but I cannot think it a very desirable one. (with the political outlook as it is at present especially

Faithfully yours,

H. G. Underwood.

H. G. Underwood
Erzroom-Turkey.
Dec. 7/1907.

Rec'd FEB 1 1908

Erzroum, Turkey, Jan. 3, 1908.

Jas. L. Barton, D.D.
Boston, Mass. U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Barton;- Your last letter referring to the question of the Stapletons' return I found a bit disquieting. As you are aware, I am in favor of their return. It is exceedingly difficult to find anyone for these interior ETM. stations barring Harpoot which is in a class by itself. There are several causes for this I suppose- bad political conditions isolation, etc. not worth while going into here. The point is that it will hardly do to demand perfection in the candidate and above all in one who has already had the advantage of work on the field. To speak to you frankly I do feel that Mr. Stapleton has been imprudent in some of his use of funds, particularly of the orphanage, and if the pot may be allowed to call the kettle black. I may add that he is deficient in his command of Armenian. But surely these are not irremediable faults. As to Mrs Stapleton, she is pure gold, or to change the figure she is a four horse team,-splendid equipment for the foreign field in every way. This much as an answer to your last letter.

The chief thought of this letter, however, refers to my own affairs and I wish your advice in the matter. As I once wrote you, Mrs. Judson, my mother in law, is left alone by the death of her husband in April 1906. We invited her to make her home with us in Erzroum but a winter here made it plain that her health would not stand it here. She has returned to America but it appears necessary that she be with us, hence the very serious question arises as to my course. Shall I resign my connection with the Board, or ask for a furlough a year earlier (our furlough would naturally come in the fall of 1909) trusting that the way may be made plain later? It is hard to even think of permanently giving up the work. I altered my college course and changed colleges and struck out for the foreign field with the conviction that my call was to the work as a life work. Here too

every thing calls me to stay. The work is gaining a hold on the Moslems more and more each year. The matter of official recognition for my hospital has just been carried through by our Embassy and a accumulation of medical property approaching one thousand pounds in value has been accumulated, and only a trained nurse is needed to make the institution a well established tho small, hospital. with every prospect of a growing work and increased spiritual results year by year. So far it has been foundation work. But as I realized years ago the meaning of Luke I 4;22 I am likewise coming now to understand I Timothy 5;8.

Mrs. Judsons condition is such that we can not leave her alone many months longer. I would like your advice what to do under the circumstances.

Faithfully yours,

H. G. Underwood.

Erzroom - Turkey Jan. 3 - 1908.

Rec'd FEB 1 1908

2/4

Erzroum, Turkey, Jan. 4, 1908.

Mr. Enoch F. Bell,
14 Beacon St. Boston.

Dear Mr. Bell;- Your letter of Dec. 12th. recd. this post. Our letters are still systematically opened altho the Embassy is now dealing with the matter. It is not surprising that some have been lost. It is good to know that the Laymans movement is so promising.

As to the sale of the orphanage property to clear the debt the sale has been made for L.T. 426 liras. Of this 300 liras cash has been paid and a note given for the balance payable in 3 months. Even this hardly clears the debt and we shall have to close our orphanage work very soon.

Yours sincerely,

H. G. Underwood.

Erzroom. Turkey. Jan. 4-1908.

MAY 23 1908

12

Erzroum, Turkey, May 2nd 1908.

Enoch F. Bell.

14 Beacon St. Boston.

Dear Mr. Bell;- Your letter of Apr. 1 received, referring to the action taken by the Prudential Committee with regard to appointment of nurses and their relation to the general work of the station. I regret very much that so far I have never had a trained nurse to help in the hospital altho the need of one is most urgent and our best efforts toward efficiency woefully inadequate without her. Once and again I have written asking if one could not be sent us but have had no favorable response to date. In answering your inquiry therefore I must base my judgment somewhat on theory as well as on ~~knowledge and~~ experience.

Let me state at once my conviction that a trained nurse in a mission hospital should be pre-eminently a personal worker in bringing men to a knowledge of Christ and His salvation. Their opportunities for this direct work are I believe greater than those of any other of the missionary force. That being the case and it being assumed of course that their work is under full control of the Board, it is my firm opinion that they should be regarded as missionaries from the start just as much as the workers in other lines. It goes without saying of course that they should be chosen with equal caution also. In taking this view I am not unaware that misunderstandings have at times occurred in some of the stations between the doctor and nurse and between

Erzerum, Turkey, May 2nd, 1908.

Joseph W. Bell,

14 Beacon St. Boston,

Dear Mr. Bell:- Your letter of Apr. 1 received, referring to the action taken by the Executive committee with regard to appointment of nurses and their relation to the general work of the station. I regret very much that so far I have never had a trained nurse to help in the hospital altho the need of one is most urgent and our best efforts toward efficiency woefully inadequate without her. Once as and again I have written asking if one could not be sent us but have had no favorable response to date. In answering your inquiry therefore I must base my judgment somewhat on theory as well as on knowledge and experience.

Let me state at once my conviction that a trained nurse in a mission hospital should be pre-eminently a personal worker an original man to a knowledge of Christ and His salvation. Their opportunities for this direct work are I believe greater than those of any other of the missionary force, that being the case and it being assumed of course that their work is under full control of the Board, it is my firm opinion that they should be regarded as missionaries from the start just as are the workers in other lines. I do without say I believe that they should be known as such and paid certain salaries. In taking this view I am not unaware of that misunderstandings have arisen in some of the stations. Perhaps the custom and trade has strengthened

the nurse and the other missionaries. This must be expected and dealt with in the same way as misunderstandings between the other workers, which unfortunately are not unknown.

There is it is true a relation between a physician and the nurse which necessitates the giving of directions on the part of the doctor and performance of those duties by the nurse which is at variance with the state of freedom of action and voting equality in the missionary circle generally. But that should not be an offence to the nurse who will realize that in sacrificing the acquirment of the superior technical knowledge possessed by the physician she enters a sphere of action in which her privileges of close relation to the patients and opportunities to influence them spiritually are greater than his, however well he may strive to do his part. I am in favor then of treating the educated trained nurse exactly as other missionaries including that of voting in the affairs of the station and the mission.

Yours sincerely,

H. L. Underwood.

P.S. Please secure us one of that kind at once if possible.

the nurse and the other missionaries. This must be expected and dealt with in the same way as misunderstandings between the other workers, which unfortunately are not unknown.

Where is it is true a relation between a physician and the nurse which necessitates the giving of directions on the part of the doctor and performance of those duties by the nurse which is at variance with the state of freedom of action and voting equality in the missionary circle generally. But that should not be an offence to the nurse who will realize that in sacrificing the acquirement of the superior technical knowledge possessed by the physician she enters a sphere of action in which her privileges of close relation to the patients and opportunities to influence them spiritually are greater than his. However well he may strive to do his part. I am in favor then of treating the educated trained nurse exactly as other missionaries including that of voting in the affairs of the station and the mission.

Yours sincerely,

H. C. Blackburn

Dr. Blackburn seems sure of that should return if possible

Erroom-Turkey. May 2-1908.

AUG 1 1908

H. L. Underwood
Malatia. Turkey.

July 5th 1908.

Questions

Dr. Jas. L. Barton D.D.
Boston - Mass.
U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Barton: You will observe from the heading that I am in the Harpoot field. We came on from Erzroom for the mission meeting and now in company with Dr. Atkinson I am enroute to the medical conference in Aintab to begin the 12th. From that conference Dr. A. will proceed to America on furlough (meeting Mrs. A. at Constantinople) and I will return to Harpoot and Erzroum. You will be interested to know that we are here enjoying the hospitality of one who was your servant years ago when you were in Harpoot. Aughaper. now the wife of Bidvili Vertet. pastor here. She sends ~~you~~ you her greetings.

From Harpoot I mailed to you an Erzroum Sta. report of the general work. The Medical report I will send from Aintab.

In Erzroum

P.S. All our letters from the interior and Constantinople continue to be opened as here-to-fore. Here there seems to be no such trouble.

accompanying the Sta. report. Which deals somewhat with the Russian work I had intended to write to you regarding that work. As you are aware we have been obliged to drop it this year for lack of funds.

The Mission has just voted for a special grant of £24 yearly to continue the work as heretofore and has also asked the Prudential Com. to consider the possibility (without hindrance to present work) of establishing a station in the Caucasus to develope the Russian work in a way not at all possible from Erzroum. In connection with this matter - in-as-much as Mr Cole at one time intimated to me a desire to resume his old work in Russia of 20 years ago - the Mission has instructed me to informally mention to you the subject of his possible return to that field. The idea struck Dr. Barnum favorably. Of course Mr Cole's health is the doubtful point aside from the question of expense.

At least we would like your

opinion in the matter. The Russian work enjoys a freedom not hitherto known and it seems a great pity not to take advantage of it - after 25 years of "holding the fort" there.

Our furlough has been granted by the mission - to be taken any time in 1909. deemed desirable. We will prob leave as early as Feb. or March account of urgent family matters in America. (Mrs. Judson's health) at this time the journey will have to be via Russia. If a few pounds extra on travelling expenses be allowable I can investigate the Russian field somewhat en route.

Kindly give me your views on above.

Faithfully yours

H. G. Underwood.

SEP 21 1908

Erzroum, Turkey, Aug. 29th. 1908.

Rev. Jas. L. Barton, D.D.,

Boston, Mass. U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Barton;- We have just arrived home after an all summer's absence during which I have had the good fortune to visit not only Harpoot and Aintab where conferences were in session but also incidentally, Marash and Sivas. As I left Harpoot before the Mission meeting was ended the schedule of our estimates was not made out and therefore I must hasten to send them on by this post. You will find them enclosed herewith.

Although we have dropped the Russian work this year for lack of funds I retain it on the list in the hope that the vote of the Mission asking for Lt. 24 as an annual special grant for the purpose of maintaining that work will be given acceptance by the Prudential Committee. Connected with that vote was the recommendation that if the Board could find the means to do so without injury to existing work that a separate station be established there, say in Kars. That of course is the best, the ideal plan. Since that meeting however political events have suddenly removed the hindrances to the crossing of the frontier and at present both for ourselves and for Armenians as well the frontier is no barrier. The entire atmosphere has changed as by a miracle. We trust it may be a permanent reform but have some misgivings never-the-less. If permanent it is no longer so imperative as heretofore that a separate station be established in the Caucasus, an additional man attached to the

Boston, Tuesday, June, 1933.

Mr. Jas. T. Barton, D.D.,

Boston, Mass. U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Barton, We have just arrived home after a very long and wearisome journey which I have had the good fortune to make not only through North and South China conferences were in session, but also in Manchuria, Korea and Japan. We left Mukden before the Manchuria war and had the pleasure of our daughter's visa of entry made out and the Japan Consul Mukden to meet us on our arrival at Dairen. We all find them prolonged nervously.

Chinese have dropped the Russian loan. Nine tenths has taken place of Russian. Nation is on the platform the hope that the Nanking Government may be able to carry out the work of the International Consortium. Nanking will be given the impression of the Boxer indemnity. Connected with that there was the recent decision that if the Japanese would find the money to do so without injury to existing contracts Boxer indemnity would be returned. Nanking Government is in Kiang. That of course is the most serious point. Japan may be expecting more trouble with Nanking. Nanking removed the Ministries to Wuhu. The Ministry of Finance and its present with for ourselves and for Chinese in Wuhu the country is in bankruptcy. The entire expenditure of Nanking is a deficit. We think it may be a permanent point. Have very little trouble. Nanking Japan. Japanese is in a larger or disposition to Japan before that. A separate statement of the Nanking Government with attached to the

station would suffice. The frontier is two days easy travel is distan am indeed is frequently reached in one day.

Faithfully yours,

H. Z. Underwood.

Erzroom - Turkey - Aug. 29 - 1908.

The Quetta Pilot

Sub-Con.

DEC 7 1908

Erzroum. Turkey. Nov. 14th 1908.

Dr. Jas. L. Barton
Boston.
U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Barton:- I believe your last letter referring to our furlough and asking for an estimate of the travelling expenses has so far remained unanswered as I had no data for estimating the cost via Russia and even now it is difficult to make a close estimate for steam ship & carriage rates - both via Trebizond and Russia have greatly advanced. We plan to start Mar 1st or thereabouts and go via Naples and New York. The estimated expense for the entire journey is £T. 175.00 ($790.00) - probably less rather than more. This includes the passage (2nd class est.) of a young Armenian girl whom we wish to bring over as nurse for the children, of whom there will be four - two under two years of age. I do not find in the Handbook any reference to servants travelling expenses and would like to know what the Bud. Committee allows.

You will be interested to know that the new regime has brought only good so far. Here in Erzroum and there has been almost nothing of the arrogance on the part of the Armenians which threatened grave trouble in Van and which was probably at the bottom of the recent outbreaks in Tokat and Diarbekir.

The situation is unique here - only in respect to the presence

DEC 7 1908

Sycamore, Sunday, Nov. 14 1908.

Mr. Jas. L. Boston
Boston
N.Y.C.

Dear Doctor Boston:- I thank you for your letter referring to our friendship, and asking for an estimate of the travelling expenses for the remainder of the year. I had no data for estimating the cost of fares and sundries, it is difficult to make a close estimate for a company such as I represent, but I have given the matter careful consideration and have figured the expenses as follows:

My salary to start from Nov. 1st for three months and one half, and then for the entire year at $4,000 (Four thousand dollars) per annum, including the journey (Boston to) Sycamore, and when we need to bring or send for the children, then will be four. Under two years of age. I do not find in the handbook any regular to account travelling expenses and I would like to know what the Board generally allows.

Now, will it interest to know that the new regime has thought only good to do, here in Sycamore and there has been another of the members in the Board of the Sycamore under Christian Science, which is very and which are difficult of the bottom of the account and thanks in that and therefore

The matter is merely here - only in regard to the finance

in the city of a large number from Russia - among them many well known revolutionists.

The young men (Ax) of the city are on the qui vive as never before - for meetings, lectures etc. & tho. not drawn primarily toward religious subjects we have succeeded in getting together a much greater number of them to the meetings of the young men's society. Mr. Lawson Chambers work here (he gave two addresses) had a good influence and may lead ultimately to the formation of a Y. M. C. A. or lines broad enough to include both Gregorians and Protestants. I wish that the associate membership might be made to attract the Turkish young men also.

For the first time since I came to Turkey we feel free to have a religious service in Turkish in the dispensary. A great door and effectual is now open if we can but enter it and the Russian frontier now presenting no difficulty, our long established work there calls for reorganization. Altogether Erzroum needs a new man (an additional missionary ordained) as never before in the history of the station. I regret having to take a furlough just at this time.

As we shall probably land in New York there is a question in my mind if it is best for us to visit Boston also S. Norwalk Conn. whose church has contributed so largely to our support. If so please let me know. There are personal reasons and also questions relating to the hospital which make it desirable for me to visit you personally but the extra expense might offset the cost of a special return trip from Ignmstown New York later.

Faithfully yours. H. G. Underwood.

Erzroom - Turkey - Nov. 14 - 1908.

JAN 30 1909

Erzroum. Turkey. Jan 9th 1909.

Rev. Jas. L. Barton, D.D.
14 Beacon St.
Boston, Mass.
U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Barton:- Your letter of Dec 14th welcomed in last post. To I can assure you, I had no thought of bringing along an Armenian girl as a maid - at her own desire alone. In fact - old and young - employers and servants are a bit daft these days of "hurried" and whereas last year we would have been fairly besieged by candidates for the place - this year it begins to look as if we might fail altogether to find one willing to go. I hope not for Mrs. Underwood is very miserable generally throughout a sea voyage, and our two oldest children are very susceptible also: then with two little ones under 2 years of age we will have anything but an easy time en route.

Regarding Mrs. U's expenses for the trip to Constantinople in the Fall of 1907. I would say that I charged it in LT 39 to Mr. Peet for her travelling expenses in the Dec. S.A. of that year - as an item not under appropriations, and the charge was accepted. I should perhaps have reported direct to Boston; but followed what I supposed was the usual procedure. I hope it has not caused you trouble.

Faithfully yours
J. L. Underwood.

We are more than pleased with Miss Ash - our English nurse for the hospital.

Grooms Turkey Jan. 9 1909.

APR 28 1909

BRANCH OFFICE OF
UNDERWOOD DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
(INCORPORATED)

JAMESTOWN, N. Y., Apr 26th 1909
415 Lake Avenue.

Jas. L. Barton. D.D.
Boston Mass

Dear Doctor Barton:- We completed our long journey from Erzroum to this place a week ago (Apr. 17) arriving safely. At Batoum we were obliged to wait three days for a steamer. In Naples we were fortunate in making close connections and passed there but one night and parts of two days. The stop in New York City was also but for one night so we made quick time. Mar 12th was the date of our departure from Erzroum.

I have turned in my travel acct. to Mr. Wiggin. He has just advised me by letter to consult with you as to our allowance while on furlough. I had supposed that that was already determined as per the handbook (of which by the way, please send me a copy)

We have with us our four children and will need the usual allowance granted them. They are aged. 6½ yrs. 5 yrs. 2 yrs, and. 4 months respectively. A large and happy family which I wish you might see. We shall be under the usual expense of living in this country.

Mrs. Underwoods mother and all her relatives in fact are on the Pacific slope. Some live in Portland Oregon. some near San Francisco and also Tacoma Wn.

Just how to arrange the matter of visiting them is one thing I would like to know from you. (both as to time and expense involved) We have dropped our little Armenian maid problem at least for

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BRANCH OFFICE OF
UNDERWOOD DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
(INCORPORATED)

JAMESTOWN, N. Y., _____ 190

the sake of economy but I am not at all confident that Mrs Underwood's health will stand the added strain involved in so doing.

There are two problems about which I wish especially your counsel and it seems to me really necessary to see you personally. One concerns the question of my return to the field and the other that of keeping open our Erzroum hospital - both in my immediate absence and - in the event of my not returning - in the future.

I have already had some correspondence with you but it is a matter difficult to make plain in a letter because of intimate personal and family matters involved in the question. At least - the correspondence thus far between the Boston office and myself - while in Erzroum - indicates that my position is not clearly understood.

Still another question which I would like to discuss with you - is the continuance of our Russian work - dropped a year ago for lack of funds as you know. When and where can I arrange to see you in regard to these problems? Local interest in Turkey is keen.

Our hearts are sore in view of the outbreak in Turkey with its attendant bloodshed but we rejoice in the success of the Constitutionalists at the capital. We trust that nothing serious has occurred in Eastern Turkey.

Faithfully yours
H. G. Underwood.

Jamestown N. Y. Apr. 26-1909.

a

Rec'd APR 29 1909

W. & A. Underwood

30

4.15 Lake View Ave
Jamestown, N.Y. 4/28/09

Dr. Jas. E. Barton.
Boston Mass.

Dear Doctor Barton: A day or two ago I wrote you with reference to our arrival here at the home of my parents and mentioned several questions concerning which it seems to me a personal interview is very necessary. I neglected to ask about what time I shall be called upon for speaking etc. As I wish to take some further medical work in surgery and the eye and ear and possibly a little laboratory special work at Ann Arbor or elsewhere it would please me to do most of my speaking soon. Moreover just now talks upon Turkey are especially apropos.

By the way I mentioned rather vaguely that Mrs. H's relatives are in various points along the Pacific slope. I would not have you infer that we wish to visit all of them at the Board's expense. Our main thought is for her mother

in Portland Oregon.

As to my medical work if it is possible for me to secure special rates or other advantage by arrange for such work through the Board I wish by all means to do so. Can you tell me as to that.

We hear vague rumors from Erzroum but so far nothing serious. I hope all is well with our dear fellow-workers and the work.

Faithfully yours

H. G. Underwood.

MAY 1 1909

415 Lake View Ave
Jamestown N.Y.
4/30/09

Rev. E. F. Bell.
14 Beacon St
Boston.

Dear Mr. Bell: You will note by the above address that we are in America at last and enjoying to the full our visits with old friends. altho I confess to having some anxiety for my fellow workers in Turkey. All was well there apparently on our departure Mar 12th. "I will trust and not be afraid" is a matter comforting to us all these days.

I am not sure that I sent my medical report to the Rooms before leaving Erzroum. Will you kindly inform me as to that. It was not ready until we were already in the whirl of preparation to leave and I find no memorandum of having sent one.

Faithfully yours
H. L. Underwood.

H. L. Underwood

Jamestown - N. Y. Apr. 30 - 1909.

JUN 18 1909

25

415 Lake View Ave.

Jamestown, N.Y. , June 16th. 1909.

Dear Doctor Barton;-

You will recall from our conference in Boston the status of the question of our return to the field; and your advice to postpone immediate decision and to let you know as soon as the way was plain. It seems clear to me that we cannot hope to return for an indefinite time. Neither Mrs. Judson's health nor her circumstances are improving. I should like to begin practice this fall if possible and to do so it is necessary to send at once for these of our things in Erzroum which are essential . We sold off what we could; but books, personal medical instruments a few , and some household goods amounting to six boxes and 2 bales in all I have just sent for.

In case unforseen events should occur to change the outlook we might go after all of course but it seems altogether best to begin practice here before our furlough expires and to begin search at once for a qualified man to carry on the hospital in Erzroum. I have already looked about a little but have n no one in sight yet.

I am glad that the situation in Erzroum did not become serious. Mr. Stapleton has probably written you the details. I know of no place in E. Turkey so favorable for work for the Turks and I hope whoever goes out in my place will learn the Turkish first as I tried to do. The outlook is so good it intensifies my disappointment at having to give it up. If it is agreable to the Prudential Committee I prefer not to ~~xxxx~~ resign as long as there is any hope of returning .

A letter from Mr. Crawford makes me rejoice with him that he is to go back so soon.

Faithfully yours,

H. Z. Underwood

P.S. Am speaking occasionally yet in local churches of direct denomination but nothing strenuous.

Jamestown, N.Y.
June 16-1909.

Dear Doctor Burton:-

You will recall from our conference in Boston the status of the question of your return to the field; and your advice to postpone immediate decision and to let you know as soon as the way was plain. It seems clear to me that we cannot hope to return for an indefinite time. Neither Mrs. Judson's health nor her circumstances are improving. I should like to begin practice this fall if possible and to do so it is necessary to send at once for those of our things in Erzroum which are essential. We sold off what we could, but books, personal effects and household utensils a few, and some household goods putting the six boxes in all I have just sent for.

In case unforeseen events should occur to change the outlook we might yet alter all of course but it seems altogether best to begin practice here before our furlough expires and to begin search at once for a qualified man to carry on the hospital in Erzroum. I have already looked about a little but have no one in sight yet.

I am glad that the situation in Erzroum did not become as bad. Mr. Shepherd has probably written you the details. I know of no place in Ex Turkey so favorable for work for the Turks and I hope wherever goes out in my place will learn the Turkish first as I tried to do. The outlook is so good it intensifies my disappointment at having to give it up. It is a question with the Prudential Committee I prefer not to xxxxx really as long as there is any hope of returning.

A letter from Mr. Crawford makes me rejoice with him that he is to go back so soon.

Faithfully yours,

AUG 5 1909

Jamestown, N.Y. July 31st 1909.

Rev. Jas L. Barton, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Doctor Barton:- Your letter of has awaited an answer some time as I have been away from home. I appreciate deeply your kind words with reference to my return to Erzroum. You especially know what it is to give up one's work on the field.

I have just received a letter from Mr. Wiggin, asking about my debt of $224.93 in Erzroum. It is as you know a matter I mentioned to you in Boston but it seemed best, you thought, to postpone any action on it till the question of our return was settled. I think we shall have to consider that settled in the negative. The 25 lira increase in salary the year preceding our furlough allowed us to get through without increasing our debt but did not of course allow of paying off anything on the old score. In fact with present prices in Erzroum, both Mr. Stapleton and I feel that the salary is barely sufficient with the utmost economy consistent with health. We slightly reduced the debt by sale of some personal effects (furniture) at our break up of house-keeping but in view of the necessity of making a start in life anew here, I do not feel that I can shoulder any more than I have.

The debt is one of gradual accumulation for the most part - and due to higher prices (often several hundred pct. higher) than formerly prevailed, on both native and foreign supplies. After the first year in Erzroum we tried to avoid importing anything which could possibly be dispensed with. The change of residence from Bitlis to Erzroum involved outlay outside of travelling expenses which at the start was something of a handicap also.

I know of only ~~two~~ economies sometimes practiced by missionaries that we have not persisted in. One is turning envelopes to use them again and the other making "chakhamar" to save meat bills in winter. The latter experiment we tried in Bitlis but it upset our digestion.

Mr. Wiggin asks what is to be done about it. I feel sure that you realize that my heart is with the Board and our own work there and so it is also with my parents who until lately have helped largely financially in our work in Erzroum. Now however, my father is himself in very straitened circumstances and I cannot accept anyhelp from him.

I would ask you to present the matter to the Prudential Committee and I think they would be willing to settle it by a grant. I have already written to Mr. Wiggin and enclosed with it a letter from Mr. Peet to Mr. Stapleton regarding my account which it might be well for you to see. My warm regards to both yourself and Mr. Bell. I am still on the lookout for a doctor for Erzroum but have not found him yet.

Yours faithfully H. L. Underwood.

Sure - Erzroum Medical Property.

Jamestown N. Y. July 31-1909.

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Rec'd AUG 12 1909

19

Jamestown, N.Y., Aug. 10, 1909.

Dear Doctor Barton;-

Your very kind letter received yesterday. Yes, I think the time has come when you had best bring my resignation as an active missionary before the Committee for action, much as I regret doing so. I feel that it is impossible for me to return to the work for an indefinite time to come .

Any further delay in looking for a qualified man for the Erzroum hospital involves great loss to the work there ,all the more so in view of its recent recognition by the government, and the remarkably favorable conditions there for aggressive work for the Turks,more favorable as I think I have written before, than in any other place I have visited in Eastern Turkey.

It will be a great disappointment too ,to our nurse Miss Ash and to our English friends who sent her out there, if there is any great delay in the reopening of the medical work.Mrs. Stapleton's time is so fully occupied that she simply is unable to undertake it.

Faithfully yours,

H. L. Underwood.

Jamestown, N.Y., Aug. 10, 1909.

Dear Doctor Barton:-

Your very kind letter received yesterday. Yes, I think the time has come when you had best bring my resignation as an active missionary before the Committee for action, much as I regret doing so. I feel that it is impossible for me to return to the work for an indefinite time to come.

Any further delay in looking for a qualified man for the Persian Hospital involves great loss to the work there, all the more so in view of its recent recognition by the Government, and the remarkably favorable conditions there for aggressive work for the much more favorable as I think I have written before, than in any other place I have visited in Eastern Turkey.

I will be a great disappointment, too, to our nurse Miss Ash to our English friends who sent her out there, if there is any great delay in the reopening of the medical work. Stapleton time is so fully occupied that she simply is unable to undertake it.

Faithfully yours,

Dr. D. Underwood

Jamestown, N.Y. Aug. 10-1909.

RECEIVED
C. H. PATTON
AUG 21 1909

RECEIVED
C. H. PATTON
AUG 21 1909

715. Lake View Ave.
Jamestown, N.Y. Aug. 20, 09.

Dear Doctor Patton:-

Now that it seems clear that I am not to return to Erzroum, the question of finding a physician for the hospital in that place becomes a pressing one. It is at present closed and will doubtless remain so till a qualified man is found for it and permanently located there. I did what I could to secure someone tempararily from the force now on the field but it was without success.

I have had some correspondence with Mr. Harry Edmunds Sec'y. of the Students Club who has kindly taken an interest in the matter but 2 or 3 to whom I have written of his suggestion have failed us.

You may be already on the track of some one but I take this opportunity to keep Erzroume prominently in your mind's eye. I know of no place where the opportunity to reach the Turks is so encouraging. The closed hospital there tries my soul.

Faithfully yours
H. Z. Underwood.

Jamestown - N. Y. Aug. 20 - 1909.

AUG 25 1909

Jamestown, N. Y., Aug. 24, 09.

ReV. James L. Barton, D.D.,

Boston, Mass.

Dear Doctor Barton;- Your favor of the I9th. rec'd. I thank you most deeply for the kind and appreciative words accompanying the acceptance of our resignation from the active work of the Board. We are not obliged to give up our interest in it, nor thank God our part in it in some form.

We plan to start west Sept. Ist. to locate probably in Portland the home of Mrs. Judson. Rather unfortunately, my relatives nearly all live in the East while all my wife's relations live on the coast.

The matter of our journey expenses I mentioned to Mr. Wiggin last May, when he expressed the opinion that the railway fare west would doubtless come in as a part of our expenses from Erzroum home. Yesterday I again mentioned the matter in a letter to Mr. Wiggin ~~an~~ and put in an estimate as follows;-

2 I/2 tickets 2nd. Class to portland-	a $60.25	I50.63
3 Tourist births	a $7.00	2I.00
		$ I7I.63.

It is not always possible to secure Tourist rates but I hope to do so. First class would add fully $45.00 to the total cost.

The Erzroum friends frequently express the hope that I have found a doctor for Erzroum. I regret that as yet I have no one in sight.

Faithfully yours,

H. G. Underwood.

Jamestown, N. Y. Aug. 24-1902

JAN 2 1910
RECEIVED
O. H PATTON
JAN 3

La Grande, Oregon. Dec 27th 1909.

Rev. Jas. L. Barton, D.D.

Boston, Mass

Dear Doctor Barton:- It is sometime since I rec'd your very kind letter. In it you mentioned the fact that search for a doctor for the Erzroum hospital was continuing but with no one there in sight. I hope you are soon to find some one. Not only because of the need on the field but for the encouragement of Miss Ash the English nurse and her friends. It will always be a source of the greatest regret to me that I had to step down and out - just at the most favorable time for work in the history of the Turkey Mission.

I note that you ask ~~with~~ what church I am joining. Our affairs are still mixed. My family are in Portland and I had planned to join the 1st church there - Dr. Wyatt, pastor. He is a strong worker for the foreign field and an altogether delightful and lovable spirit. But the bread and butter proposition has led me to doubt the wisdom of attempting to work

up a practice in a large city at present - with my numerous family and I am over here in Eastern Oregon at present as locum tenens with the offer of a partnership after the ~~the~~ return of the doctor.

Unfortunately there is no Congregational church here and direct work for the Board seems out of the question.

I gave an address in the 1st church in Portland one Thursday evening shortly before leaving and also Mrs. Underwood has spoken at the Kasalo St. Ch. I also spoke one Sunday at Pilgrim Ch. I was obliged to forego one engagement in Portland to come here. Walla Walla is a Congregational center which is not too far from here to serve. If you think best to put me in touch with some one there I will be glad to do my part.

A post card from Fredygond informs me that our 7 boxes left there Nov 24. A series of accidents prevented shipment ~~last~~ 1st of September as we had hoped.

With warm wishes for a Happy New Year, yours sincerely.

H. Z. Underwood.

Dr. H. Z. Underwood
La Grande - Ore.
Dec. 28-1909

Rec'd JUN 19 1906

261

Erzroom, Turkey
May 26th 1906.
Mrs. H. L. Underwood

Dear Mr. Barton:-

This morning the post brought the deepest sorrow of my life - the death of my dear father. He had cancer of the liver but they did not know it until two weeks before his death so the news has come suddenly to us. My mother has no home so will have to come to us. I have one brother and no sisters but my brother is a young man only starting out in life and lives in the lonely mining camps where his work is. I want my mother to come with Miss Bushnell. Will you kindly keep her informed as to steamers etc. We will pay her fare out of a little money which we have with my husband's father but as we have very little will you please get her reduced rate if possible such as you get for all missionaries. Thanking you beforehand and begging your pardon for asking of you this favor when your life is so full of work -

Sincerely. Mrs. H. L. Underwood
(over)

My husband is away on a tour but will be home tomorrow.

My mother's address is -

Mrs. G. F. Judson.
Box 973.
Goldfield,
Nevada.
U. S. A.

Enjoyment Tuesday - May 26-1908.

Mrs. F. R. Underwood